FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-136
Monday
17 July 1995

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-136 *17 July 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Asks Chirac To 'Put Pressure' on Israel

JN1407151895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat today sent a cable to French President Jacques Chirac, congratulating him on the National Day of the Republic of France, which is on 14 July. His excellency said: It is an important national occasion on which we proudly remember with deep appreciation your friendly country's support for us under the most critical circumstances in the fair struggling march of our people. This has had a deep effect on us and on our Palestinian people and contributed to closer ties of friendship and fruitful cooperation between our two friendly peoples and their official institutions. We assert to your excellency that we take great pride in these relations and that we are resolved to promote and develop these relations in the interest of our peoples. This will also help us achieve progress and prosperity and serve the causes of freedom, peace, and democracy in our region and the world.

In his cable, President Yasir 'Arafat added: We are continuing the peace process despite the obstacles placed by the Israeli Government to its progress, continuation, and success. We look to France, in view of its active and respectable role, to increase its support for our Palestinian people to help them set up their vital facilities and the structures of their National Authority, so that just and lasting peace will be established in Palestine and the region.

President 'Arafat asked France to put pressure on the Israeli Government and to urge it to fulfill its obligations stipulated in the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement. President 'Arafat stressed that he is determined, whatever the difficulties, to continue on the path of peace which guarantees security and progress for the peoples of the region and our people, end the Israeli occupation of their territory and holy places, and restore the Palestinian people's national rights. These rights are recognized by international legitimacy, primarily the right to self- determination and establishing an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Ross-'Arafat Meeting Said 'Successful, Fruitful'

MM1407132995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 95 p 5

[Report by Husayn Hijazi: "Ross Meets With 'Arafat in Gaza, Conveys New Assurances to Him"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza — Palestinian sources in Gaza have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the 80-minute meeting Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process in the Middle East, held with President Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza was successful and fruitful.

The sources said that Ross, who moved to Gaza from Israel the evening before last within the framework of his current tour aimed at preparing for the next military meeting between Syria and the Hebrew state, conveyed new assurances from the U.S. Administration concerning the importance Washington attaches to the agreement on the expansion of Palestinian self-rule, for which Israel and the Palestinian Authority have set 25 July as a target deadline.

The sources revealed that last Monday, the day he arrived in the region, Ross participated in a step that reflected the seriousness of U.S. support for the Israeli-Palestinian track, namely in one of the negotiation sessions over redeployment in the West Bank. These sessions are being held behind the scenes in a venue that has not been disclosed.

On the Palestinian view of the phased agreement, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, information adviser to the Palestinian president, told AL-HAYAH that there are three positive aspects it could include.

First, the agreement will lead to the transfer of seven main cities to the Palestinians, four cities immediately: Nabulus, Tulkarm, Janin, and Qalqilyah; and three other cities before the elections, namely Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron.

Second, 5,000 PLO officers and elements will enter the West Bank from abroad, because the agreement stipulates the deployment of 12,000 policeman in the West Bank: 7,000 from inside [the self-rule areas] and 5,000 from abroad.

Third, the phased agreement this time includes an agreement on the release of Palestinian detainees. Abu-Rudaynah says that this issue still has not been resolved, since the Palestinian side insists that all detainees should be released, while the Israelis say that they will release only hundreds.

The Palestinian sources said that the agreement on the transfer of powers, reached within the framework of the negotiations that have been in progress in Cairo for eight months, is now almost complete. It will likely be signed within the framework of the phased agreement, which is expected to be signed by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and the Palestinian president in Washington at the beginning of August. [passage omitted]

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Sha'th Discusses Talks on Prisoner Release

JN1507145795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1108 GMT 15 Jul 95

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, by Ibrahim Milhim; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" feature — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Milhim] You met with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday. What were the most important topics raised at this meeting?

[Sha'th] The meeting was entirely devoted to a discussion of the prisoner issue. No other issue was discussed. You may know that since I headed for Madrid and Washington, the prisoner issue has topped my list of priorities.

[Milhim] You have undertaken it upon yourself to continue to work toward a solution of this issue until all prisoners are freed.

[Sha'th] That is right.

[Milhim] The number of the prisoners that are still held in Israeli jails totals some 6,000.

[Sha'th] For now, the number varies every day. This is because the Israelis free some prisoners and jail others. Nonetheless, the number of prisoners at present stands at some 5,600, including 916 prisoners held on civil or criminal charges; that is, people handed criminal sentences that do not necessarily have anything to do with acts of resistance or political issues.

[Milhim] What then were the most important things you have agreed upon in this regard?

[Sha'th] As a matter of fact, I warned yesterday that yesterday's meeting would be the last, and that I would not continue with such negotiations if no progress was made. The overriding sentiment was that unless progress was made at yesterday's meeting, unfavorable climates would be created. I believe that the Israeli team came with proposals to ensure some progress. Yesterday, when we began the discussions, the Israelis had some papers and proposals with them, which I cannot divulge unless they are in writing. This is what we have learned to do. However, I believe that we are on the verge of the release of a tangible, or large, you may say, number of prisoners; a few thousand rather than only several hundred prisoners. This number of prisoners will be released in two group. The first group will be released when the agreement is signed, and the second group will be released shortly thereafter. The Israelis proposed that the two groups constitute the first installment of prisoners to be released. It goes without saying that we are opposed to such a proposal. I am telling you about the offer they have made. They have offered this. We approved this, but told them this is insufficient. We demanded a timetable for the release of the prisoners who would remain in Israeli jails after the release of these two groups. We also said that the first group of prisoners to be released must include a special category of prisoners. They approved the release of people, old people, and the sick. Nonetheless, the offers they have made with regard to female prisoners do not provide for the release of all female prisoners. We are adamant that the first group of prisoners to be released must include all female prisoners. Moreover, we insist that all those who spent 10 years or longer in Israeli jails must be released. They approved the release of most of the prisoners who spent such time in jail. But it remains to be said that the Israelis have so far not approved the release of some of the prisoners who fall under this category. As a matter of fact, we want to do away with the distinction the Israelis have made between those who have blood on their hands and those who do not. This is because all combatants, be they soldiers of the occupation army or resistance men, were engaged in fighting and murder.

[Milhim] At the urging of their superiors.

[Sha'th] There is no doubt about that. At present, we are in an era of peace. Hence, all those who were engaged in fighting and killing and wounded in the fighting must be released so they may contribute to the peace-building process and to the building of a Palestinian homeland under peace. Given all this, some issues still need to be worked out, such as the setting of a timetable for the release of the prisoners who would remain in Israeli jails after the release of the two groups and increasing the number of the prisoners to be released from among those who spent a long time in Israeli jails. Basically, 2,400 prisoners held before the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord must all be freed in these two groups. You know that when I started the negotiations as head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho negotiations on prisoners, 11,000 Palestinian prisoners were held in Israeli jails.

[Milhim] Yes, I remember that.

[Sha'th] Of these 11,000 prisoners, only 2,400 have remained in Israeli jails. Nonetheless, Israeli troops have held an additional 3,000 Palestinians in the aftermath of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

[Milhim] Doctor, the major issue of prisoners is being highlighted by Israeli media organs, which are trying to show that the prisoners—who will be released in two groups—belong to only one political trend rather than to all the political trends. Is this true?

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[Sha'th] It is not true. Those who will be released belong to all trends.

[Milhim] Including the Islamic Jihad, for example?

[Sha'th] Yes, yes. Let us be realistic. We have previously agreed that the prisoners whose factions are not committed to the peace process and who are not ready to renounce violence after their release should sign an undertaking not to resort to violence. They will not be required to approve the peace process or the political process but they will have to personally pledge not to resort to violence after their release. Otherwise, they will have to complete their prison terms. We want to have as many as possible released. Those who sign will be released. This will cover Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and all the other organizations.

[Milhim] What about the Arab prisoners?

[Sha'th] We will receive the first group of 54 Arab prisoners very soon, before the agreement.

[Milhim] Where are they from?

[Sha'th] It seems that most of them are from Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, or mostly from Lebanon and Iraq.

[Milhim] What about those who had committed crimes?

[Sha'th] They are going to be released, and we—in principle—are ready to receive them. I have just asked for a complete list of the names of all the prisoners who were charged with crimes, as well as the nature of their crimes, so that we can make sure of certain matters. Sometimes, people arrested on criminal charges turn out to be political prisoners. Therefore, we have asked for a complete list of about 1,000 names. So we are talking about several thousand.

[Milhim] Apart from the Palestinian prisoner issue and the detainees, who are also part of the peace process, may I ask about the 25 July deadline?

[Sha'th] There is a connection between the prisoner issue and the 25 July deadline. I can say that what the Israelis have offered has produced progress but it is not sufficient. My team and I will do our best, but the final responsibility should be linked to negotiations on the transitional agreement to be signed on 25 July. We cannot separate the prisoner issue from other issues, and I cannot see any possibility of signing a transitional agreement on 25 July without the release of the prisoners. We view the prisoners exactly as a besieged or occupied city. They are like Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah, and we view the prisoners' freedom as part of the political agreement. It is no longer a humanitarian issue but part of the political agreement. However, we will still have the issues of redeployment, transfer of powers, and elections, which are important and over which we still have disputes. I am not among those who are negotiating the other parts of this agreement. It is the responsibility of brothers Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Jamil al-Tarifi, and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya. I wish them success, and I know that they will face loopholes, problems, and many obstacles during the next two weeks. I also know that they are exerting great efforts to reach an acceptable agreement in line with the Declaration of Principles. I honestly say that Israel is now serious. It was not so a month ago, for example. If Israel was serious six months ago, we would have reached an agreement. But now there is seriousness on both sides. Therefore, we can say that 25 July may be the day of signing. I do not expect that, but if the deadline is extended there will be more clarity and the signing will follow shortly. But we have to work as if the deadline were 25 July.

'Arafat Adviser Views Talks With Israelis

NC1507093495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 15 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Jerusalem, by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] Dr. al-Tibi, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Tibi] Thank you.

[Husayn] Dr. Ahmad, could we learn from you about the scope of negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli negotiators?

[Al-Tibi] These days, meetings continue in order to find a way to bridge the gap in the positions on which there are still some differences, some of which are basic points. Work is proceeding continuously. As you have already told us, the meetings are taking place in the town of Zikhron Ya'aqov near Haifa in northern Israel.

[Husayn] Dr. Ahmad, why was the town of Zikhron Ya'aqov chosen to hold these negotiations, after such a fuss about where this round of negotiations should be held?

[Al-Tibi] At the beginning, the Israeli side was talking about holding the meetings in Italy. Because we believe that there is no need to remove the negotiations from the region, it was agreed to continue these negotiations in the region, in this part of the world: in Jericho, Jerusalem, Zikhron Ya'aqov, and Cairo. There is no need to move to Europe to hold these negotiations.

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[Husayn] I believe the negotiations concentrate on three basic issues. These are: The redeployment of the Israeli forces, holding elections, and the transfer of powers. What have these negotiations yielded so far? Let us start with the issue of the redeployment of the Israeli forces and what the differences are in the viewpoints between the two sides.

[Al-Tibi] There is still no agreement over the issue of redeployment, because the Israeli understanding of redeployment does not agree fully with the text of the Oslo agreement. What they mean regarding security or their understanding of security and control over some areas in the West Bank, particularly what is called Area B—that is, the area outside the cities, or the countryside—makes it difficult for us to reach agreement right now. The Israelis are demanding comprehensive and full security control over these inhabited Palestinian areas. Negotiations continue over this point in particular. As regards elections, from our side we are one hundred-percent ready from the technical and administrative aspects to hold these elections as soon as possible. There are still two points of difference: The first is the participation of the residents of East Jerusalem in the elections regarding both candidates and voters.

The second point pertains to the number of members in the Palestinian council. This issue does not require negotiations but a decision by the prime minister. As to the transfer of powers, matters are proceeding well. There was progress on this issue a few days ago in Cairo.

[Husayn] Sorry to interrupt, but I believe that no agreement has been reached on the transfer of powers in the spheres of water and electricity.

[Al-Tibi] Yes, that is so because Israel's security concept goes beyond mere security. They are now raising the question of who should control the water resources. You know, of course, that when the Israelis occupied the West Bank, they placed the area's natural resources under their control and used the West Bank's underground water to supply Israel. It is strange that they want to return territories to us but want to maintain control over these territories' underground resources. The Palestinians cannot accept this. Negotiations are continuing, however, and I hope that we will be able to surmount the water and electricity obstacle. Again, a personal decision by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is needed here.

[Husayn] Dr. al-Tibi, another important issue is the release of the Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. First of all, how many are there?

[Al-Tibi] More than 5,800 Palestinians are in Israeli jails. We constantly say: Those who wish to make peace with the Palestinians cannot simply ignore the detainees. This is a very important issue to the Palestinian public and influences the atmosphere of the negotiations. It is not enough to sign documents and agreements. All old war files must be closed. These detainees were under the command of the PLO and President 'Arafat. Prime Minister Rabin, who shook hands with President 'Arafat, knows that he must make peace with all segments of the Palestinian people. A meeting of the joint Palestinian-Israeli ministerial committee has been held to discuss the detainee issue. We believe that it is necessary to release all the detainees on the eve of the Palestinian elections so that they can vote. They should vote before any others. To them goes the credit for bringing the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators together. It is important that they participate in the process of free elections.

[Husayn] Dr. al-Tibi, are you optimistic that an agreement to implement the second phase of the Oslo agreement will be reached by 25 July?

[Al-Tibi] I am not sure that an agreement will be reached before 25 July. A lot of work remains. Some issues are still being negotiated. I hope, however, that agreement over the second phase of the Oslo agreement will be reached within the next few weeks.

[Husayn] Dr. al-Tibi, thank you.

[Al-Tibi] You are welcome.

Abu-Middayn Blames Israel's Singer for Slow Progress

TA1707051395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman 'Arafat may be necessary to resolve final disagreements between Israel and the Palestinians. That is the assessment of Furayh Abu-Middayn, who holds the justice portfolio in the PA. He was speaking to members of the Labor Party's Young Guard. Abu-Middayn also claimed that Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yo'el Singer was behind the lack of progress in the talks. He said Singer was spending time on minor points and not on the major issues. He told the Labor Party members that the Palestinian Police have arrested 11 people who were planning attacks and were turned over to police by their mothers. Abu-Middayn said the mothers were trying to prevent further bloodshed and save the lives of their children.

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Hasan Abu-Libdah, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks at Zikhron Ya'aqov, says that if there is progress in the discussions then a summit is likely between Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman 'Arafat.

In Zikhron Ya'aqov, a demonstration by settlers and members of right-wing parties dispersed last night without any reported incidents. The police directed the demonstrators to an empty lot several hundred meters from the hotel where the talks are being held.

The mayor of Bethlehem, a member of the PA, said the Palestinians are opposed to Israel's request that security procedures for Rachel's Tomb and the road leading to it be under joint Israeli- Palestinian control. According to him, Rachel's Tomb is part of a large Muslim cemetery that is connected to the Palestinians. PA official Ilyas Frayj told reporter Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinians would preserve the holy sites in the area and would permit Jews to visit and pray at Rachel's Tomb.

[Begin recording] [Frayj] My advice to the government is not to create this sort of friction. It will be absolutely guaranteed. Its sanctity will be absolutely guaranteed, as it has always been.

[Ben-Menahem] But will you allow Jews to come and pray there?

[Frayj] Sure, they will be allowed to come. Yes, of course, they will have to be allowed to come. In fact, we want peace with full normalization and full open borders. [end recording]

West Bank, Gaza Fatah Stresses Adherence to DOP

JN1607194295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fatah in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has stated that it firmly adheres to the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP] as a Palestinian strategic option.

In a statement issued today, Fatah rejected Israeli attempts to fragment the homeland and strike at its geographic and political unity and its sovereignty.

It urged the Israeli Government to make bold and courageous decisions to build a firm basis for a just and comprehensive peace between the two sides in the region. It also called for the release of all male and female prisoners from the jails of the Israeli occupation without any restriction or exception.

Fatah urged [the Palestinian Authority] not to hurry to formulate and sign any agreement with Israel if it does not ensure a clear-cut and definite timetable for the release of all prisoners.

In its statement, Fatah strongly rejected Israeli practices to isolate and Judaize the city of Jerusalem by drowning it with settlers and changing its Arab and Islamic characteristics.

Fatah then stressed that Jerusalem is the capital of an independent Palestinian state, the soul of national causes, the essence of the religious and cultural entity, and an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

Fatah also condemned Israel's continued practices to confiscate territories and eradicate trees and urged the Israeli Government to commit itself to what it had signed with the PLO. The movement said that the Palestinian National Authority is for all Palestinian people and that it is the nucleus of the national state. It also called for pursuing democracy as a strategic option and stressed the need to enact legislation and laws defining the relationship between the authority and the citizens, to adopt the principle of brotherly dialogue, to listen to opposing viewpoints, and to consider political and cultural pluralism, diversity, and various sources of creativity.

'Arafat, Cabinet Discuss Redeployment, Settlements

JN1507135895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jul 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority [NA] weekly cabinet meeting chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat, which was held at the Presidency headquarters in Gaza today, focused on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in all fields, especially on the 25 July deadline for reaching agreement on redeployment, holding the legislative elections, and the transfer of powers to the NA in the West Bank.

Minister of Local Government Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the legislative elections will not be held unless the redeployment is completed, and said the NA is ready for elections if the redeployment is done.

Dr. 'Urayqat said meeting the 25 July deadline largely depends on the agreement that will be charted, adding that the phased agreement will include seven appendixes, which are redeployment, elections, security and economic issues, transfer of powers, and the prisoners.

For his part, Minister of Labor Dr. Samir Ghawshah said an expanded meeting will be held in Haifa in which 50 Palestinian negotiators will take part in order to discuss various issues. Dr. Ghawshah emphasized that there are still pending issues that will be discussed during the next

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meeting between President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Minister of Housing Dr. Zakariya al-Agha emphasized that all Palestinian prisoners and detainees should be unconditionally freed from the Israeli occupation prisons in accordance with a specific timetable.

Dr. al-Agha said he is not optimistic that an agreement will be reached by the 25 July deadline.

Issue Statement

JN1507192395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jul 95

[Statement issued by the cabinet following its weekly meeting chaired by Yasir 'Arafat; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet discussed the negotiations on the redeployment and other issues related to the transfer of powers and preparation for the Palestinian legislative general elections. The cabinet gave instructions to the negotiating team, especially that any agreement should call for control of the National Authority [NA] on all populated areas and ensure the geographic unity of the Palestinian territories.

The cabinet discussed the settlement activities which are taking place on some Palestinian lands, including those in the village of al-Khidr. The cabinet said these activities should immediately stop and said these activities are taking place at a time when the negotiations are underway on ending the Israeli occupation. It said these activities adversely influence all peace steps.

The cabinet also discussed the subject of prisoners in the Israeli occupation jails and said any agreement on redeployment should include a solution to the prisoner problem and should call for their release. It stressed that the formula that discriminates between prisoners or that calls for releasing some of them and keeping others cannot lead to a real solution that creates a positive environment for reaching political agreement or an atmosphere that is suitable to the current peace process.

The cabinet called for giving intensive attention to the Palestinian prisoners and for following up their cause on all levels.

The cabinet also discussed the results of the visit of U.S envoy Dennis Ross and his meeting with President 'Arafat and the talks held on the peace process.

The NA's cabinet also discussed a number of administrative and organizational issues and the results of the meeting with the World Bank president. It emphasized that the results of that meeting concerning the international support for the NA should be followed up.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said Israel wants to impose an agreement on the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles that suits the settlers in the West Bank.

At the end of the NA cabinet meeting, the minister of local government added that Israel's insistence on an agreement that is tailored to suit the settlers is the largest crack that divides the Palestinian and Israeli sides on the security arrangements.

Dr. 'Uraqyqat emphasized that the Palestinian side wants an agreement that is applicable on the ground and that is acceptable to the 7 million Palestinians and Israelis.

Gaza Chief Justice's Bodyguard Ambushed

JN1507131695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Policeman Akram Ahmad was martyred with the bullets of unidentified assailants while he was performing his duty in the al-Nasr neighborhood in Gaza this morning. Martyr Akram was an escort to Gaza Chief Justice Qusayy al-'Abadilah.

'Arafat: Hit Killers With 'Iron Fist'

JN1507193095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat and his spokesman, has stated that the Palestinian police and the other security organizations are intensifying their efforts to determine the circumstances surrounding the criminal action which resulted in the martyrdom of a Palestinian security man in Gaza city at noon today.

Kanafani added President 'Arafat gave firm instructions to security officials to hit with an iron fist the perpetrators of such actions, which only benefit the enemies of the Palestinian people.

Kanafani stressed that the results of investigations in the incident will be announced at the appropriate time.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Talks Resume Near Haifa

JN1607194595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed at a hotel near the city of Haifa today with the aim of reaching an agreement to apply the second stage of the Declaration of Principles by 25 July.

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Marwan Kanafani, information adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, said that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will discuss ways to overcome obstacles blocking the implementation of the Declaration of Principles accord. Approximately 150 negotiators from both sides are taking part in the negotiations. The negotiators have been divided into four committees dealing with the redeployment of the Israeli Army, security arrangements, and [the transfer] of legal and economic powers to the National Authority [NA] in the West Bank.

In another development, an opinion poll conducted by the Palestinian Research and Studies Center in Nabulus shows that 56 percent of the Palestinians back a draft agreement to redeploy the Israeli occupation Army, hold the elections, and transfer civilians powers. However, 44 percent of those polled believe that the redeployment of the Israeli occupation Army means that a Palestinian state will be established in the near future, while 39 percent objected to this. Thirty six percent described the performance of the NA as good while 38 percent considered it weak.

'Wide Gaps' in Talks; 'Arafat, Rabin To Meet

TA1607181295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jul 95

[Report by political correspondent 'Iman'uel Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet next week in a bid to resolve the differences between Israel and the Palestinians. A tense atmosphere marked the start of this morning's talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Zikhron Ya'aqov, and wide gaps were noted between the parties' respective positions. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin Rosen recording] Snugly ensconced in their hotel, with the media kept firmly outside, the Israeli and PA representatives kicked off a marathon session of talks designed to consolidate the interim accord by 25 July. Almost 200 people are convened in the negotiating halls after arriving one by one this morning. Included in the the security arrangement discussions are: Major General 'Uzi Dayan on the Israeli side, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya on behalf of the Palestinians, and Yom-Tov Sami' with the maps.

The tranquillity of this small town was disturbed when, as expected, the area around the hotel also became the site of demonstrations. The Israeli public did not come in droves to demonstrate, but to be on the safe side the police kept the demonstrators a respectable distance away from the hotel entrance. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Intensive' Talks Said Held in 'Secret' Locations

NC1307145695 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 13 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO are holding "intensive" talks at secret locations in a bid to meet a July 25 deadline for agreement on extending Palestinian self-rule, a senior PLO official said Thursday [13 July].

"There are committees which are negotiating intensively," for a deal to extend self-rule on the West Bank, Palestinian economy minister Ahmad Quray' told AFP.

"The two sides are doing their best to try to conclude an agreement by the scheduled," target of July 25, he said.

But he added, "Delaying the deadline by a few days will not prevent us from reaching a just agreement acceptable to both sides."

However in Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman Danny Shek said Israel and the PLO had still not agreed where to hold negotiations on all tracks of the second phase of autonomy. [passage omitted]

Israelis, Syrians Met in Geneva 'Two Weeks Ago'

NC1507154195 London MBC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As regards the Middle East peace process, sources close to the Israeli Foreign Ministry have disclosed that Israeli and Syrian officials participated in a meeting in Geneva organized by Norway two weeks ago. The meeting was held on the sidelines of meetings of the water group of the multilateral talks, which Syria is boycotting.

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Algeria

Security Forces Claim 29 'Terrorists' Killed

LD1507212095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique released by the security services said that security forces had killed 29 terrorists as a result of search operations they carried out in Algiers, Constantine, Blida, Boumerdes, Chlef, Relizane, Jijel, Tiaret, Bouira, Ain Defla, El Tarf, and El Oued.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Current Issues

LD1507235495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television in Arabic at 1955 GMT on 15 July carries on the "Dimensions" program a 97-minute recorded interview with Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi.

Prime Minister Sifi answered questions on the security situation in the country, mentioning the support the people have shown for government efforts to put an end to violence, the dialogue between the presidency and the political parties, and the presidency efforts to restore democracy by referring matters to the people through elections. He went on to say that while some parties may fear elections, the ensuing dialogue is aimed at taking the country out of crisis. The prime minister noted preparations have already been made for holding the elections, for amending the Electoral Law to bring it up to date, and for ensuring the equality of men and women before the law.

Sifi then spoke about the country's economic situation, the arrangements reached with the IMF regarding debt repayments, and the economic revival through the government program.

On being brought back to the elections issue the prime minister reiterated what the head of state has repeatedly stated, that the elections will be free and credible with the media playing an important role.

In response to a question about the suspension of some newspapers he said that the media could criticize but was not free to insult people.

Sifi then talked about the good relations Algeria has with foreign countries, and gave examples of this. He also was asked brief questions on issues such as examination results and soccer.

Draft Decree on Amending Electoral Law Endorsed

LD1607184795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Transitional National Council endorsed today by an absolute majority the draft decree amending and completing the electoral law, after two days of lengthy discussions last week.

The amendments affect nine articles of the draft decree put forward by the government, apart from the revised Article 110. The council members have dropped the proposed amendment to this article and retained it as it was, namely that a candidate must submit at least 75,000 individual signatures collected from 25 provinces, with a minimum of 1,500 approved signatures from each province.

The amendment to the revised Article 100 stipulates that a presidential candidate's spouse must be of Algerian nationality by birth. He/she must declare his/her real estate and movable property in the country and abroad. He/she must also submit a certificate proving his/her participation in the national liberation revolution for those born before 1 June 1942.

In this article an amendment of one of its clauses has been dropped and what the government had proposed is retained, namely promoting the national identity with its Islamic, Arab, and Amazigh dimensions.

Revised Article 114 set the date for the second round of voting as the 15th day after the Constitutional Council announces the first round's results, provided that the maximum period between both rounds, namely the first and second, does not exceed 30 days.

To remind you, the Transitional National Council members yesterday discussed the draft decree on the statutes of the judges of the Audit Council. The draft revolves around three main issues. The first issue relates to the qualifications of the council's judges. The second relates to guaranteeing those judges' autonomy by renewing [as heard] their rights. The final one relates to defining the commitments and duties of this council without prejudice to the judges' autonomy.

Further on Law Amendments

LD1607235195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Transitional National Council today unanimously endorsed the draft decree amending and completing the electoral law, after the council members proposed 33 amendments which the committee and the government representatives had examined.

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The endorsed text contains the following provisions: bringing forward the start of voting by 120 hours for those living abroad; limiting proxy voting to the ill, the elderly, the disabled, those working away from their province of residence or travelling, those present at their workplace on polling day, and citizens abroad. Members of the National People's Army and security personnel will vote at their workplace. [passage omitted]

Article 6 amending Article 108 stipulates that a candidate must not have a nationality other than Algerian. The spouse must be of Algerian nationality by birth. The candidate must submit a medical certificate obtained from sworn-in doctors. He must submit a declaration of his real estate and movable property in the country or abroad. Candidates born before 1 July 1942 must submit a certificate of participation in the national liberation revolution.

The candidate must also submit a signed statement containing a pledge to comply with and defend the constitution; to be committed to democracy; to respect multiparty politics in accordance with the republic's principles; to reject violence as a means of political action to gain or retain power; to respect Islam, the religion of the state, and glorify it and not to use it for partisan purposes; to respect the values of the 1 November Revolution; and to promote the national identity with its three dimensions: Islamic, Arab, and Amazigh. The parents of candidates born after July 1942 should not have been involved in actions against the war of national liberation. [passage omitted].

Presidential candidates can spend up to 11 million dinars on their campaign in the first round. This figure will be increased to 13 million for the second round.

New Governors of Bechar, Mascara Installed

LD1407142395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mustapha Benmansour, minister of the interior, local authorities, environment, and administrative reform, today presided over the installment of (Sandid Mohamed Mounib) as governor of Bechar Province. [passage omitted]

For his part, Mascara Governor Hocine Ouaddeh was officially installed today by Mohamed Laichoubi, minister of labor and social protection.

Ambassador To France Meets Interior Minister

LD1407155795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hocine Djoudi, the Algerian ambassador to France, met the French interior minister yesterday evening.

The meeting dealt with different issues, such as the granting of visas, the residence of illegal immigrants, the plan to transfer Air Algerie's office, and combating terrorism.

After that, the two sides renewed the need to work toward ensuring the continued residence of the Algerian community there in tranquillity, respect, and dignity.

Labor Cooperation Agreement Signed With Egypt

LD1707081595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Labor Minister Mohamed Aichoubi and his Egyptian counterpart Ahmah Ahmad al-'Awami signed today a labor and employment cooperation agreement. Rachad Khattouf:

[Khattouf] With the aim of developing cooperation relations in the areas of labor, employment, and economic reform between Algeria and Egypt, and to crown the Egyptian minister of manpower and employment's visit to our country an agreement in the areas of labor and employment was signed today by Aichoubi and his Egyptian counterpart at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

The main points of the agreement resulting from talks between the two sides include issues closely related to the labor world such as continuous exchange of information and documents; developing the fields' vocational training; labor legislations and their development; coordinating Arab and international stances relating to employment, in addition to setting up a subsidiary committee, which attends to the implementation of agreed labor and employment programs. The talks were aimed at developing relations of cooperation between Algeria and Egypt.

[Begin al-'Awami recording] During this visit we saw good achievements by the people of Algeria and excellent achievements by the Algerian Government at youth employment level, at the level of self-employment of youth and promoting youth work, and also at the level of Algerian industries. Cooperation will take place through the signed agreement in the exchange of these experiences, exchange of documents, and the research taking

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place in both countries and the methods used in the development of labor and production in both countries. [end recording]

[Khattouf] Ahmah Ahmad al-'Awami, the Egyptian minister of manpower and employment, had been received by ministers of equipment and urban planning, interior, local authorities, environment and administrative reform, industry and energy, and industrial restructuring and partnership. The meetings were cordial and fraternal and were aimed at promoting and enhancing Algerian- Egyptian cooperation.

Egypt

Sudanese Diplomats Reportedly 'Attacked' in Cairo

Sudan Accuses Egyptian Security Agents

NC1607100295 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 16 (AFP) — Egyptian security agents on Sunday [16 July] attacked three Sudanese diplomats in separate incidents, leaving one seriously wounded, Sudanese embassy officials told AFP.

"I was attacked this morning by Egyptian security agents when I was leaving my home in al-Ma'adi, by at least 15 people," the deputy head of the embassy Bashir Muhammad al-Hasan told AFP.

He was given a bloody wound in the leg.

He said first secretary 'Abd-al-'Azim al-Amin Muhammad, was "seriously wounded" and hospitalised in al-Muhandisin, on the West bank of the Nile.

In a third incident, administrative attache Khalid 'Ali Al-Sayyid 'Uthman was assaulted in Madinat al-Nasr City, in the northeast of Cairo.

Relations between Khartoum and Cairo have sharply deteriorated since Egyptian President Husni Mubarak accused Sudan of masterminding an assassination bid on June 26 in Addis Ababa.

Mubarak Envoy Visits Injured Diplomats

NC1607145195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)— President Husni Mubarak has delegated Presidential Office Secretary Hamid 'Abd-al- Raziq to be reassured about the health condition of the Sudanese Embassy members who were attacked today. The president asked the presidential secretary to convey his best wishes for a speedy recovery. President Mubarak gave instructions that the injured Sudanese diplomats be treated at the state's expense.

It should be recalled that some members of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo were assaulted by a number of citizens. They were transferred to the hospital for treatment.

Information Minister Comments on Hala'ib Issue

NC1407135395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Jul 95

[Interview with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif by Mahmud Marzuq; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Marzuq] Your Excellency Safwat al-Sharif: The al-Bashir regime has made several statements reflecting the depth of the crisis gripping Sudan and proving that the regime has lost its senses. What is the crisis?

[Al-Sharif] I have not responded to the Sudanese regime's statements or reports carried by what could be described as local media organs, but now that you ask me on the telephone I will answer you. The real crisis in Sudan is that the Sudanese State is facing collapse, thanks to this regime. None of the prerequisites of a state exist, because of the so-called salvation revolution. This is a regime that has lost its credibility for several reasons. It is an authoritarian and dictatorial regime that suffers the despotism of the [National Islamic] Front. The regime has become a tool in the hands of the so-called Islamic Front. [passage omitted]

[Marzuq] Egypt's strategy to protect its national security is firm. The provocative statements by the Sudanese regime, the latest made yesterday by al-Bashir, stress that Hala'ib is Sudanese. Do you believe Sudan has raised this issue to cover up what is happening in Sudan?

[Al-Sharif] There is no question about that. I tell the brothers in Sudan who know the facts, but do not want to say it, we must go back to the end of the 19th century and the agreement signed in 1899. This agreement clearly stipulated that the 22d parallel is the dividing line between Sudanese and Egyptian territory; the line is clear. Let them go back to the first Constitution issued in Sudan. In its first article, it defined Sudan's boundary in accordance with this agreement. History is clear. [passage omitted] Hala'ib is 100 percent Egyptian, historically, and will remain so. Egypt will not give up one inch of its soil. [passage omitted] I tell them Hala'ib will remain [Egyptian] and that Egypt is not an enemy of Sudan and not the Serbs of the north, as they call us. Egypt will always represent strategic depth for Sudan and it will remain, against their will, the protector of

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Sudan. I tel! them to listen to the voice of Hala'ib and the tribes of Hala'ib, who renewed their allegiance to President Mubarak and condemned the sinful attack. I tell them do not live in illusion; the land is Egyptian and Egypt will always protect Sudan's honor. Sudan's people, as the president said, are a trust in the hands of Egypt, its president, and government. [passage omitted]

[Marzuq] Your Excellency, the Sudanese regime, according to Omdurman Radio, requests mediation. What is your comment?

[Al-Sharif] Look, things are clear. Hala'ib is Egyptian territory. Terrorism must not come out of Sudan. They must stay away from provocation and reverse their practices, beginning with the measures against the branch of [Cairo] University, schools, resthouses, the attacks against Egyptian individuals and fishermen, the fabrication of accusations, etc. He who wants mediation must first pause and be honest and sincere with himself. He must change his own attitude and conduct. He must be polite before allowing himself to mention mediation. [passage omitted]

Yemeni President Arrives in Alexandria

NC1407154095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1520 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 14 Jul (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his delegation arrived here tonight on a visit to Egypt as part of an Arab tour that has taken them to Qatar, Syria, and Jordan. President Husni Mubarak received him at the airport.

The Yemeni president is scheduled to hold talks with President Mubarak and senior officials on ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Makes Statement Upon Arrival

NC1407172395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1650 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Alexandria, 14 Jul (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has expressed his happiness at visiting Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. He said his visit provides an opportunity for talks on issues of interest to brotherly relations, bilateral cooperation, regional, Arab, and world developments, the peace process in the region, and common action by Egypt and Yemen to create a suitable atmosphere to restore Arab solidarity. President Salih made these remarks upon arriving in Alexandria tonight.

He added: We have high hopes of President Mubarak's role, in view of the outstanding position Egypt enjoys among its Arab brothers as well as their appreciation of President Mubarak. President Salih stressed that extensive efforts are required to end the estrangement and fragmentation the Arab nation is now experiencing. [passage omitted]

Discusses Arab Issues With Mubarak

NC1407172995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1700 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 14 Jul (MENA)—A round of bilateral talks between President Husni Mubarak and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih began at 1825 today at the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the meeting between the two presidents lasted about one hour. He said the Yemeni president's visit to Egypt falls within the framework of the brotherly ties that bind the two fraternal countries in addition to President Salih's desire to congratulate President Mubarak on his escape from the criminal attack on him in Addis Ababa.

The two presidents' talks dealt with Arab issues and the efforts to clear the Arab air and unite the Arab ranks by strengthening the Arab League's role.

The talks also dealt with the results of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Qatar, Syria, and Jordan.

Following their talks the two presidents stressed the need for joint action to promote and consolidate bilateral relations in every field and to hold joint meetings by ministers and senior officials toward this purpose.

The two presidents resumed their talks in the presence of the two delegations at a banquet hosted by President Mubarak in honor of the Yemeni president and his delegation.

Says al-Jihad Cell Found in Sanaa

NC1607094195 Paris AFP in English
0903 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 16 (AFP) — Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said Sunday [16 July] that Sanaa had uncovered a cell of Egyptians belonging to the militant outlawed armed al-Jihad group.

He told the Al-Jumhuriyah daily: "We have recently discovered a terrorist organisation of Egyptians working in Yemen of 14 people including teachers and workers, all members of the al-Jihad."

The al-Jihad group, one of the main militant groups in Egypt, claimed the assassination in 1981 of former president Anwar al- Sadat.

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But Salih said the 14 would not be handed over unless Cairo agreed to extradite Yemeni "separatists" which he charged had fled to Egypt after the May-July civil war in 1994.

Yemeni proposals for a security cooperation accord with Egypt would include provisions for an extradition treaty between the two countries, he added.

"We don't like a friend like Egypt to be a shelter for treacherous separatists. These people are war criminals," referring to southern leaders who tried to set up an independent state in south Yemen, before being crushed by northern forces loyal to Salih.

"We call for an exchange of criminals between Egypt and Yemen."

Salih put forward the proposed security deal to his Egyptian counterpart President Husni Mubarak during two days of talks in the northern port of Alexandria which ended Saturday.

There have been intense contacts between the two countries since Egyptian security officials alleged that gunmen who tried to kill Mubarak on June 26 in Addis Ababa had Yemeni passports. The charges have been denied by Yemen.

Cairo has further accused that Yemen is a transit point for Moslem militants sneaking into Egypt.

But Salih insisted Yemen was stamping out Moslem militants working out of its territory. "We cleanse Yemen of these elements whenever they appear," he told Al-Jumhuriyah.

More than 820 people have died since Islamists launched their campaign in March 1992 to topple Mubarak's secularist government.

Salih added that he had called on Interpol to hunt down the head of the southern separatists 'Ali Salim al-Bid wanted by Sanaa on charges of war crimes.

And in another daily Al-Ahram he denied rumours of an alliance between Yemen, Iraq and Sudan. Sanaa was cold-shouldered by Arab countries after its perceived support for Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Mubarak, Salih Hold News Conference

NC1507113695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1008 GMT 15 Jul 95

[Joint news conference by President Husni Mubarak and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih with unidentified correspondents in Alexandria on 15 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mubarak] I welcome Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Egypt, his second home. I would like to clarify that our meetings were limited to two days and dedicated to clearing the Arab atmosphere and relations among the Arab countries because fragmentation only brings problems. The Arab nation must be united as one body in order to be strong and secure.

Our relations with Yemen are very old. Contacts between President Salih and myself did not stop at all, not even for one day, even before the restoral of diplomatic ties in 1989. These contacts continued during, before, and after the Gulf war. Contacts never stopped. There are very good bilateral relations between us, and the joint committees between the two countries will meet soon under the chairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries. I believe everything between Egypt and Yemen is proceeding very well.

[Salih] I thank Brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for his sincere welcome and the results of the talks that took place between us. These talks are not happening for the first time. We have been in constant contact with each other. Bilateral relations, as the brother president said, are distinguished and historic relations baptized by blood. Yemen highly appreciates Egypt's pan-Arab and courageous stance alongside the Yemeni people. Regarding bilateral relations, as the brother president said, they are distinguished, good, and positive. In my meeting with the president, I discussed many of the concerns every Arab citizen has. The viewpoints between us are identical; our worries are mutual; and contacts continue regarding the possibility of restoring waters to their normal course within the framework of Arab cooperation and resolving bilateral differences. I believe that bilateral differences among the various Arab countries will eventually be resolved and joint Arab action will return. The gaps will be bridged and Arab solidarity will be restored, God willing. Our talks were excellent and contacts continue all the time, as do meetings on all levels. During my visits to some countries, such as Qatar, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, I found that they have the same sentiments and concerns as we do in Yemen. I found these same sentiments in Syria, Jordan, Qatar, and Egypt. This is a positive sign because viewpoints are the same. Everyone wants to gather in the Arab ranks which were split during the Gulf War. Unfortunately, every Arab citizen paid the price for this losing war. We did not want to pay such a price, but we are victims, and I believe the Arab nation is also a victim of the enemies of the Arab nation who are trying to widen the gap of differences. If there were some differences of opinion between one country and another, the enemies of the Arab nation tried to increase these differences and widen the gap. However, it seems that there is absolute Arab awareness

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and, undoubtedly, together we will be able to reveal all the positive and negative steps so that we can make progressive steps forward for the sake of the big Arab homeland. I thank the brother president for his pleasant words, which he has expressed many times before. And I also thank the press.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I represent the program "Good Morning Egypt" [on Egyptian ESC Television] and we welcome you to Egypt. We consider you and President Husni Mubarak symbols of two ancient civilizations linked by mutual fraternal feelings. The evidence is that after the recent attack on the president's motorcade in Addis Ababa, you contacted the president. After that you made your visit to Egypt. What discussions took place between you regarding this matter and what is the extent of Egyptian-Yemeni relations on the issue combating terrorism?

[Salih] Actually, in Yemen we were holding a session of the General People's Congress. We were in the meeting hall when we received the news through the media that a sinful attack had taken place on President Mubarak. We immediately ended the meeting and followed up on the incident. We also wanted to set our minds at ease about the brother president's safety as soon as possible. We learned that the brother president arrived in Cairo, and we felt comforted by that piece of news.

These acts of violence must be condemned by every citizen, no matter what form they take, under whatever slogan, and under whatever name they go. Terrorism in all forms is rejected. The attack on the head of a large or small state is rejected. The attack on any Arab citizen is also rejected. Violence and terrorism of all sorts are rejected. For this to happen in the Arab world is a negative sign. Although there is international terrorism around the world, in Japan, the United States, and Europe, we do not wish to have this phenomenon continue in our Arab homeland. We must take a serious stance to protect ourselves from such acts and combat such crimes as the attack on the head of state, the symbol of a state. There are differences between groups, but things should not get to the stage of targeting the head of a state. It is not a matter of targeting President Mubarak personally, but the attack on the head of state has an effect on the Arab people in Egypt and on the Arab situation in general. Targeting President Mubarak's life is not merely a matter of targeting his person, but such an act has wider repercussions such as creating a general state of worry. We condemn these acts of violence and terrorism everywhere and in any country. No country should allow its territory to turn into a playground for these elements, whether in Yemen, Egypt, or any other Arab country. This should be combated. We have a draft agreement drawn up between us and Egypt, which is now submitted to the brothers in Egypt for study, on security cooperation to guarantee the security and peace of the two fraternal countries.

[Correspondent] Presidents 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, you spoke about bridging the Arab gaps, uniting Arab ranks, and clearing the Arab atmosphere. Where did your talks in this regard lead, and could there be a specific mechanism to activate the role of the Arab League in this field?

[Salih] As I said earlier, we have mutual concerns, and our viewpoints are identical. We are discussing the restoral of Arab solidarity and resolving bilateral differences to activate the role of the Arab League. The role of the Arab League needs to be activated. It is the home of all Arabs. It is the institution that we need to pay attention to and support. We have experiments in the Arab world of groupings and blocs which did not yield the results we hoped for. We want to activate the role of the Arab League because it is an important institution for the Arab world.

[Correspondent] The question is also addressed to President Mubarak.

[Mubarak] I once said during an Arab League ceremony that the Arab League is the home of the Arabs. I meant by this remark that it is not permissible to let any other organization replace the Arab League. To be effective, the Arab League must be strengthened and this hinges on the successful settlement of inter-Arab differences. In this way Arab solidarity will be restored. We must keep in mind that there is strength in unity. We must cooperate and restore Arab cooperation. We must do everything possible to strengthen the Arab League.

[Correspondent] What is the cooperation agreement to which His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has referred? Can we ask about the major objectives of this prospective agreement? Will it include provisions to extradite persons who are wanted by another country's authorities, as is the case of some persons who are wanted by the Yemeni authorities?

[Mubarak] I cannot speak about the agreement's provisions at this time. It is a proposal that was made by Yemen a few days ago. It does not serve the public interest to speak about its details prematurely. We will make the provisions of the agreement public after we formulate them in a final form.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the Yemeni Republic's television and radio services wish to congratulate you on your safety. Allow us to ask you this question. How do you see the future of inter-Arab relations? What is Your Excellency's assessment of the efforts to clear the differences

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among the brothers and unite efforts and positions vis-a-vis the issues and worries faced collectively on the Arab scene?

[Mubarak] I have just spoken about clearing Arab differences. This is crucial to the restoration of a strong Arab League. As I see it, Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have held meetings and the border dispute is moving toward a solution. Border differences can cause big problems. The good intentions of brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and His Majesty King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, will definitely produce a final settlement of the border issue. Apart from that, some slight problems remain among the Arabs, including some between Jordan and several other countries. I hope that in cooperation with our Arab brothers we will find solutions to this issue.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, what about the recently reported mediation to ease tension between Egypt and Sudan? Did the talks deal with this mediation or with the messages you have received?

[Mubarak] There is absolutely no mediation between Egypt and Sudan and the situation between Egypt and Sudan needs no mediation. Egypt and Sudan have always been connected by the same link. We consider them as one body.

If there are certain violations or behavior, we can solve them at the bilateral level. I hope the brothers in Sudan will understand this so that we could reach a just solution to all these problems and Egypt and Sudan will revert to the previous situation.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, During [Yemeni Parliament Speaker] Shaykh al-Ahmar's visit to Cairo, you announced the resumption of direct telephone communications between the two countries' peoples but we noticed that they were not restored and that there was difficulty in this regard. Will the talks result in the restoration of communications to the previous situation?

[Mubarak] It seems you have no telephone at home [laughter]. If you had a telephone it would have worked and if there was a problem it would have been solved, but...

[Correspondent, interrupting] I mean through the switchboard.

[Mubarak] I believe that...[pauses] We are fully ready to solve such a problem.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, is there a common goal for your recent Arab tour which covered Syria, Qatar, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt?

[Salih] Every tour is bound to have a goal. Surely it has a goal. As we said, the aim was bilateral ties. We have common concerns about the restoration of Arab solidarity and clearing the air which are of interest to every Arab citizen who is concerned how Arab solidarity and unity between the brothers can be restored.

[Correspondent] Reports say that you have received an invitation from President Clinton to attend the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. Would you please tell us about the progress of the Israeli-Palestinian track?

[Mubarak] The Israeli-Palestinian track is (?progressing). I hope they will be able to solve some of the existing problems because we consider the Palestinian issue the essence of the Middle East problem. Without solving the Palestinian issue, the process cannot proceed easily. However, I am optimistic about this even though it might take some time because there are some tangled problems between the Palestinians and Israelis. I hope that by wisdom they can solve them. As for our attending, I don't even know where AL-AHRAM got this information. No one has informed me.

Salih Departs Alexandria

NC1507120495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 15 Jul (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left Alexandria after an official two-day visit to Egypt during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on ways to bolster bilateral relations, clear the Arab atmosphere, and restore Arab solidarity, as well as the peace process in the region.

Heading the delegation seeing the Yemeni president off at al- Nuzhah International Airport was President Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak Receives Saudi Information Minister

NC1607171595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 16 Jul (MENA)—Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif has announced that Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir today conveyed to President Husni Mubarak a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on some issues of common interest.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak gave 'Ali al-Sha'ir a message replying to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques.

He said he and the Saudi minister received instructions from President Mubarak on the continuation of joint

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action by continued bilateral coordination on all media affairs and policies. This, he noted, is in line with the unique relationship between the two fraternal nations, including the brotherly ties between President Mubarak and the custodian of the two holy mosques.

He added that 'Ali al-Sha'ir presented President Mubarak with a gift from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, a copy in excellent golden print of the holy book and a piece of the holy Kaaba's robe.

Al-Sha'ir said the gift expresses gratitude to God, who willed President Mubarak's escape from the recent evil attack on him in Addis Ababa.

During the meeting, President Mubarak stressed the profound relations linking the two brotherly states.

Minister Brings King Fahd's Message

NC1507090895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 15 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, on the situation in the Arab region and bilateral relations between the two countries.

The message was delivered by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal when President Mubarak received him in Alexandria earlier today.

Prince al-Faysal stated that during the meeting, they reviewed the results of the recent meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers, which was held in Manama, in addition to the development of events in the Arab arena and bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Saudi foreign minister denied reports regarding the possibility of convening a tripartite summit including President Husni Mubarak, King Fahd, and Jordanian monarch King Husayn.

Minister Departs Alexandria

NC1507091295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 15 Jul (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Alexandria today for home after a short visit that lasted a few hours, during which he conveyed a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to President Husni Mubarak.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa saw him off at al-Nuzhah International Airport.

Mubarak Receives Liberian Parliament Speaker

NC1507090595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak received this morning at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria the speaker of the Liberian parliament. The meeting was attended by the Liberian ambassador in Cairo.

Musa Discusses Bosnia, NPT Stance, Dispute With Sudan

AU1407130095 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 14 Jul 95 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Mahmud Musa by Erhard Stackl and Gudrun Harrer in Vienna on 13 July: "'The United Nations Are in the Hands of the Serbs'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER STANDARD] You have repeatedly expressed your disappointment about the West's attitude toward Bosnia. What should be done in your opinion?

[Musa] The first step would have to be to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia. Second, to end the vacillations about lifting the sanctions against Belgrade — which has led to what has now happened in Srebrenica. The Bosnian Serbs could have never achieved that without the support, logistics, and coordination from Belgrade. That means that the government in Belgrade has violated the Security Council resolutions referring to the safe areas. The sanctions against Belgrade would have to be stepped up.

Third, the United Nations would need more resolve in ordering NATO to get back Srebrenica and protect the other safe areas.

Anything else would mean capitulating to the Serbs. The reaction of the UN Security Council of two days ago is pitiable, without punch. We do not understand that: In the case of Iraq, the Security Council is very strict, in the case of Libya, even too strict, while, in the case of Serbia, they do not do anything.

[DER STANDARD] People fear that lifting the arms embargo would cause even greater bloodshed.

[Musa] What could still even be worse than what is happening now? Bloodshed, ethnic cleansing — we have all that. That is a farce: Always say no for fear of even more bloodshed, and in reality this is exactly what happens.

[DER STANDARD] And if the United Nations pull out?

[Musa] What have they done, anyway? Stopped the aggression? They are in the hands of the Serbs. The

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United Nations have failed. Where is the Rapid Reaction Force? And is this the NATO that we know? Imagine NATO had acted in such a way when the Soviet Union still existed!

[DER STANDARD] There seems to be some progress again in the Middle East peace process. During the talks on extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) relations between Egypt and Israel were very tense. What is the situation like today?

[Musa] There are always ups and downs in relations, issues on which one agrees but also others. Maybe some Israelis are of the opinion that Egypt should not bring up any questions that could disturb the atmosphere. Yet, Israel's nuclear program is too big a problem for us to remain silent when discussing security in the Middle East.

For us, it was simply impossible to vote for the indefinite extension of the NPT while a nuclear program — outside international legitimacy — is being pursued in the region. We have clearly explained our position not to vote in favor; eventually, none of the other Arabic countries voted in favor.

Still, this should not affect relations even though the problem remains on the agenda. We think that one must be able to talk about everything.

[DER STANDARD] At the same time, there have been differences with the United States, which accused Egypt of violating the embargo against Libya.

[Musa] We are interested in having the best of relations with the United States, which, however, does not mean that we are always of the same opinion.

Our attitude toward Libya is bound to be different. Of course, we accept the UN resolution, but we do not follow it blindly. Libya is our neighbor and not a neighbor of the United States, and there is much action and interaction between the two countries that do not necessarily have to be in violation of the resolution.

[DER STANDARD] What do you expect from cooperation between the Mediterranean countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Israel and the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], which should be initiated in Vienna?

[Musa] Egypt has initiated the establishment of a forum of all Mediterranean countries that has been convened several times. Another initiate is aiming at cooperation between the EU and the Mediterranean countries — 15 plus 12; the first conference will be held this November in Barcelona.

This here is a third initiative: talks between the OSCE and Mediterranean countries interested in cooperation. There are many common concerns: security, economic cooperation, cultural cooperation, the environment — you name it.

[DER STANDARD] After the attack on President Mubarak, relations between Egypt and Sudan have fallen to a low.

[Musa] The assassination attempt is nothing but yet another point to worry, an important one, of course. Yet, what one must mainly accuse Sudan of is that it is training terrorists, financing them, and offering them refuge. The Sudanese regime owes us an explanation on what its views are on terrorism, extremism, and its neighbors.

[DER STANDARD] What role does the border conflict about Hala'ib play in the poor relations between the two countries.

[Musa] The border was clearly defined in 1899. Yet, at the time, the Egyptians agreed with the Sudanese authorities — which were also Egyptian at the time, Egyptian-British — on a special arrangement for a certain zone, mainly because of the movement of the tribes that live there: Egyptian sovereignty, Sudanese administration. Yet, this was a decision by the Egyptian Interior Ministry, that is to say, that one can change it or cancel it.

This zone could also be the exact opposite an example of discord — an example for cooperation. Yet, the Sudanese leadership is using it as an argument: To detract from our accusation of supporting terrorists, they say Hala'ib is the reason for the conflict.

Calls For Lifting Bosnian Arms Embargo

NC1307133795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vienna, 13 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed the need to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims to enable them to practice their legitimate right to self-defense. The Egyptian minister deplored the international community's indifference to the deteriorating conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Musa made these remarks during the coordination meetings held today in Vienna among the OSCE troika—Switzerland, Hungary, and Italy—and five Mediterranean countries, including Egypt. During the meeting, the conferees discussed the political and security situation in the areas within the domain of the OSCE and in the Mediterranean basin, including Bosnia and the Middle East. They also reviewed a number of ideas of cooperation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean countries.

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Foreign Minister Musa put forward a number of proposals in the areas of peace keeping, crisis prevention, crime prevention, and arms reduction, particularly weapons of mass destruction. He also presented a number of principles that must govern this cooperation.

Meanwhile Musa met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya to discuss regional developments and relations between the Mediterranean countries and OSCE. Musa met twice with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock. The first was a private meeting between in which they discussed bilateral ties and the Middle East peace process. The second meeting was also attended by Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and representatives of Algeria and Morocco, as part of the ongoing consultations between these countries and the OSCE.

Says Islamic Meeting To Be Held on Bosnia

NC1607160595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that it has been decided to hold an extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic liaison group member states in Morocco or Geneva to discuss developments in Bosnia in light of the latest Serbian aggression.

He said there was contact today between him and Moroccan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali to set a date for the meeting and that other intense contacts have been held. He added that the meeting is expected by the end of this week.

He said the Bosnian forces will not be able to defend the safe havens because the United Nations considered this a mission for the world organization. He said the Zepa pocket and a third one are expected to fall because the Bosnian Government forces are not being allowed to defend them. Therefore, he added, the arms embargo against Bosnia must be lifted quickly because anything else is regarded as a conspiracy against the Bosnian people and its sovereignty. It must also be lifted because there are some who are enabling the Serbs to commit aggression, seize land, and practice ethnic cleansing.

He noted that Egypt warned against ethnic cleansing three days ago and yet the ethnic cleansing takes place daily without any punishment or any reaction by the world.

The foreign minister described the French proposal of military intervention to liberate the safe areas and halt the Serbian aggression as important. He said: We hope it will be implemented and will achieve its goal of halting the Serbian aggression.

He noted that one of the most important proposals that Egypt considers necessary and urgent is the lifting of the arms embargo of Bosnia thus enabling the Bosnian people to defend themselves.

He said the Western countries have explained that if the arms embargo on Bosnia is lifted, the war will spread and threaten the safe areas and the UN forces. He added that from the beginning the West's pretext was weak, and now it is invalid because the UN forces are being attacked and the safe areas are being captured.

Musa said what happens in Bosnia is the responsibility of all Islamic countries and that the Western countries alone should be accused of slackness. The Islamic countries, too, he added, have not been able to rise to the occasion since the beginning since they did not insist on lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia.

Armed Resistance Cooperation Claimed

95LD0094A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 30-31

[Article by Adil al-Jawjari: "Attempt on Mubarak's Life Exposes Terrorism Farms' in Khartoum; Mustafa Hamzah Masterminded Plan; Ayman al-Zawahiri Supported It; Returnees Executed It; Secrets of Turabi-Zawahiri Meeting in Switzerland Few Weeks Before Assassination Attempt; Plot Executors Trained at Camp Located 35 Kilometers From Khartoum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Sudanese sources in Cairo have revealed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI new secrets of the abortive attempt made on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa. The sources have asserted that terrorist Mustafa Hamzah, commander of the military wing of the Returnees [al-'a'idun] From Afghanistan Organization who lives in Khartoum currently, is the man who masterminded the assassination plan after he had received instructions from Ayman al-Zawahiri, the organization's political leader who lives in Switzerland now. The sources pointed out new evidence of involvement by the NIF [National Islamic Front], led by Hasan al-Turabi, in providing tools, weapons, and funds in support of the plan to assassinate President Mubarak. This support was given according to an agreement between al-Turabi and al-Zawahiri made in the final week of last May when al-Turabi made a secret visit to Switzerland.

The sources have further pointed out that al-Turabi made his trip on a KLM airliner under the pretext of medical treatment and that he initially went to Paris before heading from there to Geneva, where he met with

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Ayman al-Zawahiri and promised to provide the necessary support for the attempt on President Mubarak's life in the capital of Ethiopia during the president's participation in the African summit activities.

The most serious thing revealed by the sources is that members selected from the Returnees From Afghanistan Organization had trained on the assassination plan at a farm located 35 km north of Khartoum and that the farm includes terrorists from numerous nationalities, including Egyptians, Algerians, Tunisians, Eritreans, and Ugandans. The camp command is Sudanese. Iranians provide ordinary training on mining vehicles, planting mines, and guerrilla warfare. The sources believe that the assassination plan was developed in utter secrecy so Egyptian security authorities would not get wind of it. According to the sources, the assassination team included nine individuals who traveled to Addis Ababa by plane in mid-June 1995, staying at a villa located behind the Palestinian Embassy in the Ethiopian capital. There, they were visited by terrorist Tharwat Salah, who is wanted on a death sentence issued against him in Egypt for his part in planning attacks on tourists. The sources have further reported that three days before the attempt was made, Tharwat accompanied three of the operation executors to the planned site of the attempt where they inspected the area and drew up sketches of its features. The sources added that Tharwat Salah visited the terrorists another time and delivered to them two bags filled with ammunition and explosives. As for the RPG found by the Ethiopian policy in the operation site, the team collected it from a Sudanese called Shaykh Duraysh, a supporter of al-Turabi's front who works as a traveling merchant between the Sudanese and Ethiopian capitals.

Terrorism Farms

Mustafa Hamzah was the liaison between Ayman al-Zawahiri and Tharwat Salah. The sources have also alluded to the role of a A.A., a Sudanese engineer who is thought by Sudanese opposition circles to be the general coordinator between radical fundamentalist organizations that are active in the Ethiopian capital. It is also the belief that the role which al-Turabi's front played in the plot to assassinate President Mubarak went beyond supplying a training place (the farm) and smuggling weapons to Ethiopia to providing detailed information on President Mubarak's motorcade route from the airport to the president's place of residence in Addis Ababa. This role also included leasing the villa with Sudanese names and papers, securing alternative places to shelter the executors upon their completion of the operation, and making provisions to move them to Khartoum afterward.

Even though the Sudanese Government rushed to deny any connection with the attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life, Egyptian authorities have in their possession strong evidence of the terrorist role al-Turabi's front has played. In mid-June 1995, Egyptian authorities discovered weapons and ammunition caches in Kawm Umbu. Terrorist Zakariya Muhammad Bashir admitted that the weapons had been smuggled from Sudan through unpopulated desert trails. This terrorist also disclosed the presence of a center on the Egyptian-Sudanese border commanded by a Sudanese who belongs to the so-called People's Defense Forces, which are armed militias controlled by al-Turabi's front. This Sudanese person is closely connected to Mustafa Hamzah and to Muhammad, the son of Umar Abd-al-Rahman, a dangerous terrorist. Weapons are smuggled in vehicles that carry no license plates and that travel across rugged trails whose particulars are known to the Sudanese only. The vehicles unload in the Egyptian desert, where some Bedouin Arabs collaborate with the terrorists in return for large sums of money.

Kawm Umbu Caches

Terrorist Zakariya Muhammad Bashir disclosed that al-Turabi's front continues to harbor Egyptian radicals who have returned from Afghanistan, especially since the Pakistani authorities have restrained them severely there, thus compelling them to look for alternative places.

In the farm located 35 km from Khartoum, an Egyptian engineer supervises the counterfeiting of passports used by terrorists to sneak into Egypt through Arab and foreign capitals, especially since Egyptian authorities have established strict control on arrivals from the Sudanese capital. The sources believe that the assassination attempt executors arrived in Addis Ababa from Khartoum on counterfeit passports carrying coded names, thus making it difficult for the Ethiopian police to arrest them or to identify the other elements in case some of them are apprehended.

The sources also point out organizational relations that have developed between the Egyptian and Eritrean Jihad groups through the African relations official of al-Turabi's front. These sources don't find it unlikely that Eritrean Jihad elements played a role in planning and executing the assassination attempt. Eyewitnesses in the Ethiopian capital have said that they saw two young men with African features carrying automatic weapons and fleeing the operation site. It is well-known that the Eritrean Jihad organization previously used Ethiopia as the center of its activity against the current president.

The Sudanese sources report that there are no less than 3,000 Eritreans in Sudan and that Iranian authorities

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finance their expenses. These Eritreans represent the Salvation Army, according to a Friday sermon Hasan al-Turabi delivered on 23 June 1995.

As for details of the failed attempt itself, they have revealed several important facts, perhaps the most significant of which are:

The quantities of weapons and ammunition found at the site of the plot or in the terrorists' homes confirm that more than one organization took part in planning the plot. The resources of Egypt's Jihad organization and its various branches (Conquest Vanguards and Returnees From Afghanistan) are much less than what was found at the site of the incident. This also confirms that a foreign party is involved in supporting the assassination attempt and securing resources for it.

It is noticed in this regard that the Conquest Vanguards organization is the party that hastened to contact international news agencies to declare its welcome (not adoption) of the attempt on Mubarak's life. The Jihad organization, believed to be the party that executed the attempt, has remained silent.

It is well-known that there are deep differences between the Conquest Vanguards, led currently by terrorist Yasir Tawfiq Sari, and Jihad, led by Ayman al-Zawahiri. It seems that competition between the two factions and the eagerness of each of them to prove that it is worthy of speaking in the name of Egypt's most radical groups were behind the decision to carry out the attempt on President Mubarak's life in Ethiopia.

Sources of Radicalism

The question that has posed itself to political observers in Cairo is: Why did terrorists select the Ethiopian capital as a theater of the attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life?

In fact, there are three main reasons on which security sources agree unanimously, namely:

First, terrorist groups, their different names not withstanding, have completely failed to infiltrate the Egyptian front and have been unable to implement their schemes. It is no secret that Egyptian terrorists had drawn up lists of high-ranking Egyptian officials targeted for assassination. These lists include 170 politicians and intellectuals. However, stringent security measures taken by the Ministry of Interior have foiled several large-scale assassination attempts. Security agencies have so successfully dried up sources of terrorism at home that only a few black "pockets" of terrorism remain in Malawi, al-Minya Governorate; and Abu-Tij, Asyut. Elsewhere, security agencies have clipped the claws of terrorism. This is why Ayman al-Zawahiri, Jihad's leader, has instructed his followers to strike at unexpected places, thinking that security measures might be less stringent.

Second, Ethiopian policemen's experience in fighting terrorism is weak, perhaps nonexistent. Naturally, terrorists can get this sort of information only through an agent who is well-informed and experienced with Ethiopian affairs. In this regard, there is only al-Turabi's front. This front has exploited the old conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea and has employed its hostility to the government of Eritrean President Isais Afwerki to proliferate in the Ethiopian arena. It is to be noted in this connection that Eritrea hosted the latest Sudanese opposition conference which included northern and southern parties that pledged to carry on with the war against the al-Bashir-al—Turabi regime until they topple it.

The third reason is Ethiopia's proximity to Sudan, which made it easier to send terrorist cells (executors and assistants) to Addis Ababa without provoking suspicions by their presence. This proximity also made it easier to transport the weapons and explosives needed for the assassination attempt and to secure the means to transport the executors back to Khartoum upon completion of the operation.

Al-Turabi's Militias

Muhammad al-Mu'tasim Hakim, a member of the Political Bureau of the opposition Sudanese Unionist Party, has noted that the "camps for training Arab terrorists that existed close to the Engineering Corps Camp in Khartoum have been disassembled and moved to private farms owned by a number of major landowners belonging to al-Turabi's front. The front is keen on mixing Arab terrorists with trainees of the Sudanese People's Defense militias so that the presence of camps for Arab returnees from Kabul and Peshawar will not attract the attention of foreign observers. Moreover, the presence of Arab radicals in private farms provides them with the opportunity to stage exercises and to train on all kinds of weapons without being watched by anybody."

Hakim asserted that "there are training camps for Arab terrorists in seven private farms scattered around Khartoum and Port Sudan. Sudanese authorities announced recently the graduation of 40,000 volunteers from training schools. But what these authorities have not mentioned is that the graduates include 360 Arab radicals from various countries."

In statements to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, Hakim has said, "Brigadier General George Kongor Arop, the governor of Bahr al-Ghazal, supervises personally one of Sudan's most important camps for training radicals. This camp is assigned to the Ugandan opposition, which

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is led by Joseph Kony, and the Kenyan opposition that fights the rule of President Daniel arap Moi. There are other camps for training Arab radicals, including al-'Arusah camp. Sudanese authorities had announced the closure of this camp, but it continues to be open."

Gunmen Open Fire, Kill Policeman, Injure 2

NC1607121695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Asyut, 16 Jul (MENA)—A policeman was martyred this morning and two were injured when unknown gunmen opened fire on them in the area of al-Sahil in Asyut and then fled.

The incident also led to the martyrdom of one of the citizens who happened to be in the area.

The Asyut security commanders and criminal laboratory experts went to inspect the scene of the crime, and the prosecution has been informed to proceed with investigations.

Authorities Accused of Torturing Militant Suspects

NC1607051995 Paris AFP in English 2136 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 15 (AFP) — Lawyers for 13 defendants suspected of belonging to the Moslem militant al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group accused the Egyptian authorities on Saturday [15 July] of using torture to obtain confessions from their clients.

Twelve of the group, accused of taking part in an attack in which two policemen were wounded in June 1994, will appear in the state high security court again on Sunday to plead. The remaining defendant is on the run.

Human Rights Group Protests Detention of Lawyer

NC1607195195 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 16 (AFP) — An Egyptian human rights group on Sunday [16 July] called for an investigation into the treatment of one of its lawyers who was detained for 40 hours after visiting Moslem militant prisoners.

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) protested at the detention of Sa'id 'Abd-al-Hafiz in "inhuman conditions" by the authorities in Asyut, 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Cairo.

The lawyer, who was investigating the deaths of prisoners in custody and the circumstances of a Moslem militant attack which killed five policemen guarding an examination centre on July 6, was released on Saturday, the group said.

During his detention, he was held in a tiny three by 3.5 metre (10 by 11.5 foot) room crammed with 22 prisoners and then questioned blindfolded about his mission and his information about the Moslem militant attack, the EOHR said.

The group called for the public prosecutor to investigate the case, which it said indicated the authorities' intention to impose more restraints on the organisation.

Police said Sunday suspected Moslem militants killed a policeman and a civilian and wounded three other people when they attacked a police post in southern Egypt, bringing to 831 the number of people killed in a three-year militant campaign to overturn the government.

Islamist Elected to Human Rights Council

NC1407090095 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 6 - 12 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Dina 'Izzat]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) has elected a new 15-member council that includes a majority of Nasirists and a handful of Wafdists. But the council also includes, for the first time, an Islamist, renowned scholar and lawyer Muhammad Salim al-'Awwa, and a pro-government figure, Muhammad Ahmad Radwan, secretary-general of the People's Assembly.

The turnout was low for the 30 June elections which encountered no political or organisational friction. Members voted between 4 and 6 pm, a group of judges supervised the vote-counting and the results were announced before midnight.

"The new council has enough diversity (of political orientations) to ensure that it will be representing a wide range of interests and will make a good agenda for the coming year," said Nijad al-Bura'i, the Nasirist secretary-general of the outgoing council and the principal candidate for the post for the council's forthcoming term.

The results stimulated little controversy, although Radwan's election raised some question marks." "This man is surely loyal to the government which is trying to dismantle the organisation," said one member.

Although word circulated that Radwan is a member of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), he told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY that he is "a member of the Nasirite party." Describing his membership of the council as "an asset and not a threat", Radwan said: "Certainly the election of a pro-government figure will improve the image of the organisation before the state,

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which has been very sceptical about its affiliations and loyalties."

Another name that stirred argument was that of Muntasir al- Zayyat, lawyer of the Islamist militant groups. Although al-Zayyat was not elected to the council's membership, his name is the first on a waiting list. Should any of the 15 members resign or die, al- Zayyat will join the council.

Those who voted for al-Zayyat say they wanted to "alert him to a definition of human rights that goes beyond the limited scope of the Islamists." But others are alarmed by the prospect of having him on the council. "He is a man who thinks that female genital mutilation is not a violation of human rights but a good thing for women," an opponent said. "He also propagates a political ideology that confines the right to rule to Muslims only."

A council member added: "Although there is no proof of al- Zayyat's direct involvement in the Islamist violence, we all know that his hands are stained with Egyptian blood."

Neither did the election of moderate Islamist al-'Awwa go without opposition. "True, he is not involved in violence but he certainly has some orientations that do not meet international standards of human rights," a member said.

But the major disappointment for all was the low turnout for the voting as well as for the organisation's general assembly. While only a quarter of members voted, there were never more than 40 participants at the general assembly at any one time. According t6o some members who stayed away, the reason behind this meagre participation was the internal dispute over the organisation's orientation and range of membership that surrounded the last elections in January 1994. This dispute ended in a large group of EOHR founders withdrawing, some of them launching their own human rights centres.

One of the principal objectives of the new council will be a reunion, "re-engaging these people in the activities of the organisation," said Yasir Hasan, a re-elected council member. Another task, he added, will be working to forge better relations with the government that would allow the organisation an active role in stopping, and even pre-empting, human rights violations.

Libya

Paper Denounces Vienna Meeting With 'Israeli Enemy'

LD1607164295 Tripoli JANA in English 1623 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, 16 Jul (JANA) — AL SHAMS newspaper asserted that without Libya there will be no North Africa or southern Mediterranean. The paper pointed out that any dialogue concerning the security of the southern Mediterranean and North Africa would logically concern the security of Libya and its borders thus there will be no security and stability without Libya.

In an editorial entitled "No Security and No Stability Without Libya", the paper said that the foreign ministers of Egypt, Tunisia and the Israeli enemy met in Vienna under the umbrella of the European security organisation to consider the security arrangements in the southern Mediterranean and North Africa.

It is natural for the centre of gravity in the area and the rightful decision maker in the southern Mediterranean and North Africa has the right to raise certain questions as to the nature of these meetings, their agenda, aims, plans, role of the participating parties, their stances, positions, vision, orientations, justifications, capacity and legitimacy when the issue is related to the south Mediterranean anmd North Africa and the future, role and security of this region. Also this centre of gravity has the right to raise questions as to the parties which may threaten the security, stability and peace in the region when the Israeli enemy is one of the parties to the meeting. Thus the following constants should be stressed:

1. Libya will not stand idly by without any due regard and interest in the meetings taking place on its eastern and western borders with the Israeli enemy which constitutes a threat endangering the security, peace and stability of the Mediterranean and North Africa as a result of its nuclear weapons and missiles whose range extend to 4000 kms and its racist, hostile and colonialist tendency and its violation of all international customs, laws and conventions.

2. Libya cannot stand idly by before the secret and open accords and treaties taking place with the Israeli enemy regarding North Africa and the mediterranean for Libya has the longest coast, 2000 kms, along the Mediterranean and it is the northern gate to Africa. Accordingly, naturally anyone with reasonable mind, anxious and interested in the peace and security of the Mediterranean in the southern Mediterranean and North Africa should deal with Libya as a fundamental and

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main party. Without Libya, there is no North Africa or the southern Mediterranean. In this respect, any dialogue concerning the security of the southern Mediterranean and North Africa would logically concern the security of Libya and its borders.

3. Libya has been too patient for a very long time, waited a great deal and held dialogue with brothers in the east and west showing them the true nature of the Israeli enemy and the dangers it poses to North Africa, the Mediterranean and the whole Arab nation. Libya revealed to them with documentation and well-founded evidence the plans of the enemy to control water sources and the resources of the Arab nation and the future of its generations. Considering the dismissal and ignorance of these facts and plans as well as the coming danger considering all the efforts exerted in dialogue with our brothers, it will no longer be prohibited for Libya what our brothers allowed for themselves without any due regard for the future of the whole Arab nation. Thus, the meeting with the enemy of Libya will give Libya the justification to meet with those they consider as their enemy and Libya will take all the measures deemed necessary to protect its security and peace.

4. Libya will not look for its independence under the echo of the Israeli warplanes, the range of Israeli missiles and the terror of the Israeli nuclear arsenal. Libya will not look for its independence under the American umbrella and under the aegis of American fleets and aircraft carriers. But Libya will make its independence thanks to the arms of its masses, the struggle of its people and brotherly masses of the Arab nation aspiring for freedom and salvation.

5. Considering the current situation in the east and west, Libya will forge an alliance with the active forces which will inevitably inherit North Africa in future, the forces of working masses ready to fight and fall martyr. These forces which American aircraft carrier cannot chase or select as targets for elimination amongst millions of people. The forces which are aware of the danger being posed by the Israeli enemy to North Africa, the southern Mediterranean and the future of the Arab nation which believe in the right of their nation to life on earth and under the sun.

The meetings of Vienna, like those of Madrid, Oslo, Washington, Brussels, Barcelona and other secret and open meetings were in vain and time wasting and to distort matters for they ignore constant historic and geographical facts and not compatible with all logical things including the determination of the real interested parties in security and stability in the region. These meetings will only add to tension and fire and fuel the conflict.

JANA Comments on 'Suicide' of Israeli Official

LD1607174295 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Palestine, 16 Jul (JANA) — An Israeli military source has announced that the deputy defense minister committed suicide at his home today. The source said that the "terrorist" shot himself in the head with his own pistol. It added that this "terrorist" occupied the post of chief of staff of the Israeli army and that he was regarded as one of the closest to the "terrorist" Rabin, the Israeli prime minister.

This suicide reflects, at this level within the ranks of the occupation forces, the extent of the frustration and the fear and terror which dominate Israeli officials and which have driven them to suicide in order to escape the hell created by the revolutionaries of the generation of anger through their popular revolution in occupied Palestine.

Iraqi Minister Departs After Short Visit

LD1307184995 Tripoli JANA in English 1628 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripol, al-Nasir [July] 13 (JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY] — Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghapur, the Iraqi minister of higher education and scientific research, left Libya yesterday after a short visit.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity attended the farewell ceremony along with the Iraqi ambassador accredited to Libya.

Agreement on Health Sector Signed With Romania

LD1707143895 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A bilateral agreement in the health sector was signed today between Great Jamahiriyah and ROMCONSULT institute in the Romanian Republic. [passage omitted] The agreement stipulates cooperation and exchange of expertise in the health sector.

Sudan

Diplomats Reportedly Seriously Wounded in Cairo

3 Assaulted 'Inside Their Homes'

EA1607042795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Sudanese diplomats in Cairo were seriously wounded when a group of Egyp-

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tians assaulted them inside their homes. In a report from Cairo, the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, SUNA, reported that the Sudanese ambassador, Bashir Muhammad al-Hasan, was seriously wounded and the Sudanese Embassy's first secretary, 'Abd-al-'Azim al-Amin Muhammad was rushed to hospital after other members of the embassy stumbled upon him lying on the ground by the door of his house. The administrative attache, Khalid 'Ali al-Sayyid, was also seriously wounded.

The report added that four cars belonging to the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo were wrecked during the assault.

The Sudanese ambassador said a group of 15 people assaulted him near his house.

Reports also add that correspondents of news agencies had taken photographs of the incident of the assault on the ambassador before he was taken to hospital.

Attackers Said 'Egyptian Security Forces'

EA1607195995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, has described the assault by the Egyptian Security Forces on members of the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Cairo today as a violation of international laws and regulations and diplomatic conduct. It also exemplified what Mubarak's regime had turned into, he said, speaking during a news conference at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon.

Dr. Atabani said Sudan's response to the incident would be cautious, adding that Sudan would resort to all available legal means in its approach to this development. The minister of state for foreign affairs said Sudan regretted this dangerous development affecting its relations with Egypt. He said Sudan would not neglect its rights and territory. Dr. Atabani added that the Egyptian regime had become a tool for implementing the plans of international zionism, which sought to destroy Muslim and Arab unity. [passage omitted].

Egyptian Envoy Summoned Over 'Provocation'

EA1407205895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has summoned Egypt's ambassador to Khartoum and notified him of Sudan's condemnation of the Egyptian provocation of members of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo, and that it is incompatible with diplomatic conventions, and the duties of hospitality.

In a statement to SUNA, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said that the Egyptian regime's security organs have doubled their surveillance of Sudanese Embassy staff and the residence of the ambassador, and in so doing, they have seized a whole room. [sentence as heard] He added that the diplomats are exposed to a [word indistinct] constant 24-hour surveillance, in addition to their cars being deliberately bumped into, and the exposure of their families to repugnant words. He said Sudan is capable of responding in a similar fashion. However, its values and ideals prevent it from keeping pace with the aggressive practices of Cairo's regime.

One may recall that the authorities of the Egyptian regime are harassing the citizens of the occupied Hala'ib [triangle]. They have cut off drinking water in an initiative unprecedented in history. They are also carrying out several practices that aim at making the area Egyptian.

It is known that Sudan is exercising self-control and calling for a solution to the crisis through dialogue and arbitration. It granted Egypt surveillance sites in Hala'ib to enable it to protect itself from the Zionist danger during the defense of Arab territories. One may recall that Egypt's regime is circulating theories on settling the dispute, and it is occupying Sudanese territory where it has entrenched its military presence, and continues its provocations.

Egyptian Diplomat 'Assaulted' in Khartoum

Diplomat 'Beaten' by Security Men

NC1507161395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 15 Jul (MENA)—Counselor 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Sadiq, Egypt's assistant consul general in Khartoum, was assaulted this evening after leaving the Egyptian Consulate for his home. The assailants, who are from the Sudanese Public Security authorities (State Security and Intelligence Services), stopped Counselor 'Abd-al-Sadiq's car after cutting it off it with two cars in the front and rear, smashed the car windows and doors, and abused him physically and verbally.

The attack took place in al-Qasr Street, one of the main streets in Khartoum, before the eyes and ears of passers by, who could only express sympathy after realizing that the assailants were Sudanese Public Security men. As a result, Counselor 'Abd-al-Sadiq sustained a severe bruise to his left arm after having been beaten by a metal bar. He also sustained various other bodily injuries from the shattered glass.

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Counselor 'Abd-al-Sadiq was the target of a similar attack last year, but it was not as brutal and barbaric as today's.

Additional Diplomats Assaulted

NC1507183395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 15 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese security forces this evening committed another crime its chain of crimes against the Egyptians working in Sudan. The Sudanese security forces assaulted members of the Egyptian diplomatic mission accredited in Khartoum, thus violating all international laws and norms. Those beaten up are Minister Plenipotentiary Ramadan al-Sharif, Counselor 'Ala' Musa, Administrative Attache Ahmad Riyad, and other embassy employees. The Sudanese authorities smashed the car of Egypt's Consul General Husam 'Arif, the car of Minister Plenipotentiary Ramadan al-Sharif, and other cars belonging to members of the diplomatic mission.

Egypt's Ambassador in Khartoum Dr. Hasan Jad al-Haqq this evening submitted a memorandum to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry officials protesting the attacks, which run counter to all international norms and agreements that protect the diplomats.

It should be recalled that earlier today Sudanese authorities assaulted Counselor 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Sadiq, Egypt's assistant consul general, and smashed his car on one of Khartoum's main streets.

Egypt Protests Attacks

NC1607154995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 16 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese assaults against members of the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Khartoum have left six mission members wounded and damaged six of their vehicles, bearing diplomatic license plates.

Administrative Attache Ahmad Riyad's injury is severe. He was assaulted with whips, which tore his clothes and left him bleeding from many parts of his body, particularly his back. Minister Plenipotentiary Ramadan al-Sharif, Assistant Consul General 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Sadiq, Counselor 'Ala' Mursi, and attaches Hasan al-'Azab and Salih al-'Ashri were also injured.

A report has been made to the police station affiliated to Khartoum Hospital as well as the Khartoum Police District. The assaults were described in the report and attached to the hospital's admission slip.

In an urgent memorandum that Ambassador Hasan Jad-al-Haqq handed over last night to Ambassador 'Awad-al-Karim Fadlallah, first under secretary of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum demanded an urgent reply within 24 hours regarding the reasons for these assaults, the preservation of the rights of all members of the Egyptian diplomatic mission and Egyptian workers in Sudan, and compensation for the vehicles and injuries sustained by the mission members.

Minister Taha on Egypt's Assassination Accusations

Calls Sudan Involvement 'False'

EA1407211895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has affirmed that the world and Arab public opinion have now discovered the false Egyptian accusations against Sudan of involvement in the attempt to assassinate the Egyptian president. He said the administrative measures taken by Cairo's regime to prevent Sudanese from entering Egypt will not impel Sudan to take a similar measure, and that Egyptian citizens will remain honored in Sudan.

He described the continued Egyptian occupation of Hala'ib, and its provocations. In the course of his reply to the INDEPENDENT newspaper, published in London, the foreign minister added that Sudan has explained the facts to the brothers in the Arab states, giving his current Gulf tour, which he began with Saudi Arabia and Muscat, as an example.

He said that the results of the investigations into the attempt to assassinate the president of the Egyptian regime, which occurred recently in Addis Ababa, and was followed by Ethiopia's declaration that the attackers were Egyptian, confirmed the Egyptian regime's confusion which led it to accuse Sudan, and later Ethiopia, of involvement in the incident. They also confirmed that the attack highlights the depth of the conflicts between the ruling regime, and opposition groups.

Mr. 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha explained in his interview to the London INDEPENDENT newspaper that his Gulf tour concentrated on the repeated attempts by the authorities of the Egyptian regime to carry out aggression against Sudanese sovereignty in Hala'ib, the attempt to make it Egyptian behind the shield of a media blackout, and attempts to minimize the importance of the military measures they are carrying out.

His Excellency said the Arab officials he met understood these developments, and their significance to the Arab stand in the region very clearly. They had expressed their hope for a settlement of outstanding issues through the pursuit of wisdom, objectivity, and peaceful means. [passage omitted]

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Responds Further to Egyptian Charges

EA1607125695 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 16 (SUNA) — The content of the messages sent by President 'Umar al-Bashir to Arab kings, and presidents and emirs, involves explaining Sudan's viewpoint in refuting Egypt's accusations to Sudan following the assassination attempt against Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has announced.

The messages also involve the recent situation resulting from Egypt's aggressions against Sudan at Hala'ib territory.

In an interview with the BBC Friday [14 July], Taha asserted Sudan's rejection to political violence and the use of force in settling political disputes.

He further referred to the assassination attempt against President Mubarak, saying that Sudan had nothing to do with the assassination attempt, since the incident on its personal side is purely Egyptian as confirmed by the ongoing political struggle in Egypt.

Taha went on to say that the messages have elaborated on Sudan's historical and legal argument in support of its [passage indistinct] The foreign minister has denied Egypt's accusations alleging the training of terrorists by Sudan, and has asserted that they were false and without evidence since Egypt releases them to distract the world's attention from the nature of the conflict in Egypt.

On the Egyptian accusation alleging arms smuggling through Sudanese territories, Taha dismissed the accusation as unacceptable. In this respect, Taha has referred to a previous Sudanese proposal to set up joint observation teams on the borders, but the proposals gained no response from the Egyptian side.

The foreign minister is currently on a tour of a number of Gulf states carrying messages from President al-Bashir to kings and presidents of these countries.

Egyptian Side Blamed for Deterioration in Relations

EA1607201595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1727 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 16 July — Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat has held the Egyptian regime's information minister, Safwat al-Sharif, responsible for the recent deterioration in the Sudanese-Egyptian relations and insulting the peoples of the two countries. Sabdarat said that Safwat al-Sharif, who is supposed to help and advise his president Mubarak on information affairs, allowed the Egyptian mass media to circulate statements of the Egyptian president while he was in a state of panic [and] emotional instability following the attempt on his life last month. Safwat al-Sharif has left his president to circulate hasty and false allegations on Sudan's involvement in the assassination attempt without giving evidence, Sabdarat said, adding that [the] outcome of the investigations into the assassination attempt by the Ethiopian authorities rendered the Egyptian regime and its organs a source of laughter for all observers. [sentence as received]

After that Safwat al-Sharif began to give daily statements insulting the Sudanese people and the deeply-rooted relations between the two people, Sabdarat said. He added that Safwat al-Sharif should learn that neither the insults directed to the Sudanese people nor the escalation of the tension at Hala'ib area would serve the goals of Mubarak's regime.

Foreign Minister's Gulf Tour Detailed

EA1607044795 Khartoum SUNA in English 1052 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 16 July — Although the foreign minister, Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha's, current Gulf tour [is] aimed mainly at briefing Arab presidents and kings on the tension in relations between Sudan and Egypt and explaining Sudan's views towards the issue. The tour is also intended to push forward Sudan's relations with [the] Arab states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, [the] UAE, Qatar and Oman.

Sudan's ties with these states [became] strained in the wake of the Gulf war, when Sudan clearly and firmly rejected the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and simultaneously the US-led intervention in the inter-Arab dispute. Despite the tension and misunderstanding, Sudan has maintained strong ties with the Arab countries in view to realizing pan-Arab unity and solidarity.

Sudan was among the first states that welcomed and backed up UAE president Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nahayyan's initiative for the unification of the Arab ranks following the Arab split that [occurred] after the Gulf war.

In a statement released during an earlier visit to Abu Dhabi, Taha stressed Sudan's respect to the sovereignty of Kuwait, saying that Sudan is looking forward for a just solution to the rest of [the] issues between Kuwait and Iraq in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The statement hailed the Yemeni-Omani agreement on the demarcation of [the] border, as well as the Saudi-Yemeni agreement on [their] border dispute.

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President al-Bashir asserted in his official address on 3rd July on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution that Sudan's external policy is aiming at making friendly and sisterly relations with all countries for their common interests.

Ethiopia: Security Officials Claim Pressure From Egypt

EA1407181495 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 14 Jul 95

[All sentences as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo — Addis Ababa, 14 Jul — Security authorities in Addis Ababa disclosed that the Egyptian regime have practiced intensive pressures at the highest level on the Ethiopians who were investigating the assassination attempt on the life of the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, toward inducing them to prove that Sudan was involved in the assassination attempt, said the London-based AL-MUSTAQILLAH newspaper.

The paper reported that the Egyptian attempt to convince the Ethiopians that mutual interest would be realized to both Egypt and Ethiopia when Sudan found involved in the attempt, and such act would consolidate Ethiopia's relations with the USA.

AL-MUSTAQILLAH pointed out (?that) the President Meles Zenawi has refused to respond to the Egyptian offer.

In Cairo, informed diplomatic sources said that Mubarak directed senior officials in his regime to work out an urgent report on the reasons behind failure of the political campaign which he personally [words indistinct] Sudan to topple (?the) Sudanese Government.

The sources said that Mubarak has jeopardized credibility and refute of his country's mass media in a foiled campaign which targeted Sudan, adding that Mubarak got angry when his security forces failed to prove his false allegations against Sudan. The sources referred to the official statement which confirmed that the assassin attempt has been carried out by Egyptian nationals in the context of the war between the Egyptian regime and Egyptian opposition Islamic groups.

President Mubarak has attempted to convince the Arab countries, the United States [words indistinct] Sudan involvement in the accident and considered that as [a] pretext to launch an open offensive on Khartoum, the sources said, adding that Mubarak attempts were failed.

Meanwhile, Mubarak faced severe criticism from the opposition parties in Egypt due to his cooperation with elements of the Sudanese opposition. A weekly newspaper in Cairo condemned the Egyptian regime's support to the dissolved Sudanese parties and John Garang's movement, which accepted support of foreign circles, including Israel.

Egyptian personalities and circles condemned the campaign waged by official mass media against Sudan. Deputy chairman of the Egyptian Labour Party Muhammad Hilmi Murad stated that the Egyptian information minister, Safwat al-Sharif, accused Sudan Government without clear-cut evidence. Sources at the ministry said that Sharif was implementing directives from Mubarak.

Egyptian-Sudanese Tensions Over Hala'ib Continue

Egypt Depriving Hala'ib of Water

EA1407121595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 14 July (SUNA) — The Egyptian regime has resorted to a new method in the framework of its plan to escalate the tension between to two countries by preventing arrival of drinking-water to the citizens of Hala'ib area, said the director of the political department at the Foreign Ministry the ambassador Anwar al-Hadi.

He said that the Egyptian regime was the first in history which deprives people of water with the aim to impose pressure on Sudan, adding that the whole world understands well that a Sudanese Province has been deprived of water supplies by the Egyptian regime.

He said that Hala'ib area is currently besieged by Egyptian Forces which are ten times bigger than the Sudanese Force there.

He said that despite the seige and depriving from water supplies the Sudanese Force will not retreat from the Sudanese land. Al-Hadi indicated that Sudan has called on the international community to intervene in settling the Sudanese-Egyptian conflict through dialogue or arbitration.

He said that the slogan of patching Arab rifts should be translated into reality, adding that this slogan should be respected by the Egyptian regime which has been launching theories on peaceful settlement of conflicts.

Al-Hadi stated that the Egyptian people knows well the sacrifices given by Sudan for the interest of Egypt, referring to relinquishing of Sudan earlier of Wadi Halfa area for Egypt in addition to the Sudanese Forces' was fought to defend the Egyptian land. [sentence as received]

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OAU Informed of Developments

EA1507210695 Khartoum SUNA in English 1709 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Addis Ababa, July 15 (SUNA)—Sudan has notified the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the Egyptian aggression on the Sudanese territories at Hala'ib area.

The Ethiopian president and current chairman of the OAU Meles Zenani has received a written message from President 'Umar al-Bashir related to the developments at Hala'ib area.

The message was handed over to President Zenawi by Sudan ambassador to Ethiopia 'Uthman al-Sayyid Fadl.

Meanwhile al-Sayyid told SUNA correspondent in Ethiopia that President al-Bashir called on President Zenawi that the OAU should live up to its responsibilities regarding the Egyptian aggression against Sudan.

The message included that the Egyptian aggression represented a flagrant violation of the OAU Charter and Principles.

Ambassador al-Sayyid also stated that he handed the OAU Secretary General Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim a written message from the foreign minister, Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha dealing with the current developments at the Sudanese Hala'ib area.

Al-Sayyid said that the OAU secretary general expressed his concern over the developments at the areas of Hala'ib Shelatin and Abu-ramad indicating that the OAU will shoulder its responsibilities for containing the situation at Hala'ib.

Last al-Sayyid also handed a message on the situation at Hala'ib area to the Ethiopian foreign minister and chairman of the current session of the OAU's ministerial council.

The message included Sudan's desire for a peaceful settlement to the dispute on Hala'ib area.

The ambassador affirmed Sudan's rejection to use of force besides its commitment to the principles of peaceful co-existence and non intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries.

Al-Sayyid reiterated Sudan's adherence to the Islamic orientation adding that Sudan has nothing to do with assassination against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He also tackled support of Eritrea to the so-called opposition forces stating that Sudan obtains clear-cut evidence and document confirming involvement of the Eritrean regime in supporting and military training of outlaws toward overthrowing the government in Sudan.

Al-Bashir Seeks 'Peaceful Solution'

EA1507132695 Khartoum SUNA in English 1007 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 15 (SUNA)—President of the Republic Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir has stressed that Sudan is seeking peacefull solution to Hala'ib issue, saying that Hala'ib is a Sudanese territory according to international laws.

Interviewed by the national T.V. Friday [14 July], al-Bashir said we will never carry arms against Egyptians as we will never fight for false boaders [in] the Arab Nation.

Answering a question on whether he will be nominated during the coming presidential election, he said that it is a premature issue.

Gen. al-Bashir added that, Sudan during the salvation revolution era has accomplished several acheivements represented in previlance of peace and settlement besides defeating of the outlaws.

He went on to say that Sudan is enjoying good foreign relations and not internationally isolated as some circles alleged.

Al-Bashir: Hala'ib is Sudanese

EA1507203695 Khartoum SUNA in English 1709 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 15,(SUNA)—President of the Republic Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has affirmed that the hostile media campaigns against Sudan will increase its adherence to its orientation and principles adding that the Sudanese people are always ready to defend the homeland.

Addressing a mass rally at al-Huda town, south of Khartoum, Saturday [15 July], the revolution leader described citizens of al-Huda town as grandsons of the Anshir Mijahideen who earlier raised the banner of 'la ilah ila allah' (no god but allah) and supported' Imam al-Mahdi' and Khalifa Abdu Allah al Ta'Ayishi.

The mass rally was held in the context of the sixth anniversary of the national salvation revolution celebrations.

Meanwhile President al-Bashir has directed the government of Gezira state to commence immediately implementation of a project for electrification of the villages of al-Managil Province.

Al-Bashir hailed citizens of al-Huda area who have been working seriously for the development of Sudan through self-reliance.

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The president pointed out Hala'ib area is a Sudanese land and will remain so, adding that the Egyptian president should understand that Sudan has liberated its decision making.

Chairman of Gezira State assembly al-Sheikh al-Amin Ahmed al-Faki als addressed the mass rally affirming adherence of al-Huda area's citizens to the revolution and the Islamic orientation.

He asserted that citizens of Gezira State will continue supporting the Armed Forces.

Al-Faki also tackled programs of Gezira State government's plan for electrification of all the villages in al-Managil Province.

He also said that citizens and youth of al-Huda area are keen to join the popular defense camps.

Egyptian Forces Allegedly Provoke Argin Citizens

EA1507151795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The SUNA news agency reports that Egyptian forces have started to provoke Sudanese citizens in the Argin area, north of Wadi Halfa. They tried to force the citizens to move southwards.

The minister of culture and information, Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, has described this step as a new escalation by the Egyptian authorities and another attempted act of aggression against Sudanese territory, which comes as part of the repeated attempts to carry out aggression in Hala'ib.

Egypt Said Barring Sudanese From Making Bank Withdrawals

EA1507202595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] SUNA has reported that the authorities of the Egyptian regime have prevented a large number of Sudanese from withdrawing money from their private accounts in Egyptian banks through delays and postponements of banking procedures for some, and direct rejection of applications for others.

This is a new escalation of the hostile measures by the Egyptian regime against Sudanese citizens in Egypt. The Sudanese affected by the Egyptian banking measures have sent written protests to the Egyptian advocate general and complained of their being prevented from carrying out transactions with their own money in the banks.

Iraqi Intelligence Officers Said Training Army

NC1607062895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0420 GMT 16 Jul 95

[From the "Correspondent's Dispatch" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the Sudanese regime continues its provocative statements and terrorist activities against Egypt and other countries, observers in the various Arab capitals are commenting on a recent Iraqi statement that backed Khartoum and attacked Cairo. They note that this is a sign that Iraq is ready to assist the Sudanese regime against what the Iraqis call foreign intervention in Sudan.

Our Beirut correspondent Dr. Sayyid 'Ali has sent us the following report:

[Begin 'Ali recording] According to several reports, teams of Iraqi intelligence officers have been residing in Khartoum for some time now. They have two tasks. They keep an eye on the Iraqi weapons and military equipment stored in Sudan away from the eyes of UN inspection teams and do maintenance work on them. They also train the Sudanese in intelligence work and help reorganize the Sudanese Army along the same lines as the Iraqi Republican Guard.

Western sources believe that Iraqi-Sudanese rapprochement and cooperation have made big strides. They fear that this current cooperation is the beginning of a dangerous terrorist Iraqi-Sudanese alliance. Recent developments are apparently causing Iraq to try to disrupt regional stability. Iraq is seeking to keep several fronts open to protect itself from isolation.

Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi is anxious about the prospect of being treated by the Americans as they treat Saddam Husayn. He is subjected to an isolation evident in his sharp disputes with all his neighbors, including Egypt, Eritrea, Uganda, and Kenya. In this threatening atmosphere, al-Turabi has discovered that his prevarication and the double-speak that he uses with the United States, other Western countries, and Sudan's neighbors will not relieve his isolation.

According to reports, the alliance between Khartoum and Baghdad is growing stronger and the Sudanese shaykh has succeeded in persuading the Iranians to facilitate the arrival of Iraqi officers and military experts in Sudan via Iran.

It is for this reason that the Sudanese regime seems to have acquired new courage and is for the first time going to great lengths in challenging, provoking, and threatening Egypt and other neighboring countries. Observers are surprised that Sudanese officials are

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escalating their threats in an organized manner and acting as if they want war. [end recording]

Vice President Opens Peace Council in Northern Kordofan

EA1607025595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] al-Ubayyid, 16 July (SUNA) — Vice president of the Republic, Major General George Kongor Arop attended here on Saturday [15 July] the opening session of the council for peace at Northern Kordofan State.

Kongor addressed the opening session of the council, which was attended also by Muhammad al-Hasan al-Amin, wali [governor] of the state, as well as the federal agriculture and education ministers.

He reviewed in his address the general directives of the High Council for Peace, stressing the importance of expanding the peace culture all over the Sudanese society. He said that realization of peace is [a] major objective of the revolution, as peace represents the pillar of development in the country.

Meanwhile, the wali of Kordofan State, who is also the chairman of the peace council in the state, reviewed the efforts of the state to support the implementation of the policy of realizing peace from within.

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Saudi Arabia

Jordan's al-Kabariti Visits, Seeks To End 'Rift'

Calls Talks 'Positive'

NC1607091095 Paris AFP in English
0847 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, July 16 (AFP) — Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti sounded an upbeat note Sunday [16 July] about his mission aimed at ending a rift with Saudi Arabia, caused by the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

"The talks are positive and are taking place in a frank atmosphere. They are focusing on all aspects of bilateral relations," al-Kabariti told AFP before holding another meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Relations have been tense since Jordan refused in 1990 to join a US-led military coalition which drove Iraqi occupation forces out of Kuwait in the 1991 January-February Gulf War.

After a first round of talks with Prince Sa'ud on Saturday, al-Kabariti said the "time had come to end the abnormal situation" and begin cooperation.

He also told the official Saudi Press Agency that there was common ground between the two countries and hopes of resuming dialogue.

Al-Kabariti, who was to end his talks later Sunday, also met with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

It was the first such visit by a high ranking official to Saudi Arabia since 1990.

Jordanian political sources said they expect the visit to pave the way for a summit between King Fahd and Jordan's King Husayn, who have not met since July 18, 1990, two weeks before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Minister on Normalizing Relations

NC1607104895 Paris AFP in English
1043 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, July 16 (AFP) — Saudi Arabia will soon normalise diplomatic relations with Jordan, soured since the Gulf crisis five years ago, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal said Sunday [16 July].

Al-Kabariti Comments on Visit

LD1607154495 Riyadh SPA in English
1222 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, July 16, SPA — Second deputy premier, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz conferred here yesterday the visiting Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti on issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal, the Saudi charge d'affaires in Amman Muhammad al-Bassam, Jordanian Ambassador to the Kingdom Hani Mustafa al-Khalifa.

Prince Sa'ud held talks with his Jordanian counterpart earlier in the day to review bilateral relations and issues common interest.

Al-Kabariti arrived in Riyadh on Saturday afternoon for an official visit to the Kingdom and was welcomed at the airport by Prince Sa'ud and the Jordanian ambassador to the Kingdom.

After the meeting, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told reporters the Jordanian official's visit would provide an opportunity to review bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Asked about his two recent visits to Egypt, Prince Sa'ud said he hoped this would not be considered strange.

On Saturday, Prince Sa'ud said he had delivered a message from King Fahd to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations and the constant consultations between the Egyptian and Saudi leaderships.

Al-Kabariti stated that he was happy to visit Saudi Arabia and praised the Kingdom's prominent position in the Arab world.

He added that it was high time to change the abnormal situation caused by abnormal circumstances and to hold on to the future and resume the process of joint work to realize joint interests and goals.

He said there was enormous potentials for closer relations between the two kingdoms and the opportunity is available to initiate a dialogue on all levels and activities.

Al-Kabariti expressed hope that Saudi-Jordanian relations would be restored to their usual level and that the two countries would work hand in hand to realize their future goals.

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Al-Kabariti Concludes Visit

LD1607201495 Riyadh SPA in English 1917 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, July 16 (SPA) — Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti left Riyadh this afternoon after a two-day state visit to the kingdom during which he was received by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general and held talks with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

Upon departure from King Khaled international airport, the Jordanian official was seen off by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, the Jordanian ambassador to the kingdom Hani Mustafa and many officials.

Prince Sultan on Jordan, Yemen, Qatar, Arab Issues

LD1607194595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1835 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 Jul (SPA) — His Royal Highness Price Sultan Bin-'Abd'al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, has expressed gratitude to God Almighty and to King Fahd who has enabled the military units to achieve the standard they now have. In a statement to the press after presiding this morning at the graduation ceremony of the 48th batch of cadets from the King Faysal Air College in Riyadh, he said that on this happy ccasion he would like to congratulate the graduates and bless the work of past graduates. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the financing of the Boeing deal which he announced at the function organized by Saudi Airlines, his royal highness said the financing of this deal will be provided by the Treasury, but the manner and timing of the financing is left to the finance minister.

When asked about the visit yesterday of the first Jordanian official to come to the kingdom since the Gulf crisis and whether this means a new beginning for Saudi-Jordanian relations, his royal highness said: "At any rate, we and Jordan are brothers and our hearts are open to each other and to every Arab and Muslim."

Regarding a question about reported disputes at border posts between the kingdom and Yemen, he said: "There is no truth in that."

In reply to a question about the Kingdom's attitude toward the recent changes in the State of Qatar, his royal highness said: "That was something internal concerning our brothers in Qatar and we have declared our position in the visits that were exchanged." [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the Manamah Document, which states in one of its articles that any aggression on any state is an aggression on the member-states of the Damascus Declaration, and whether that means that the Arab Joint Defense Agreement is no longer important as far as the eight states were concerned, his royal highness said: "We are part of the Arab world and we recognize the Arab League Charter and support the Arab Joint Defense Agreement in any circumstances."

Regarding the latest development of the Saudi aircraft deal, his royal highness pointed out that everything is proceeding normally.

Yemen

Salih Concludes Arab Tour, Returns Home

JN1507172995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, returned with God's care to the homeland at noon today at the end of a successful tour that included the State of Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the tour he met with his brothers leaders of these countries, and discussed with them bilateral relations, Arab issues and developments, led by the efforts aimed to clear Arab atmosphere and restore Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

Salih on 'Terrorism,' Cooperation With Egypt

NC1507203395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jul (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has denied the existence of an Iraqi-Yemeni-Sudanese axis, describing these reports as rumors propagated by the media hostile to Arab solidarity. He also denied that his country is mediating between Egypt and Sudan. He affirmed the strength of the Egyptian-Yemeni relations and described them as historic, solid, and free of any blemish.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Sunday, the Yemeni President says that his talks with President Mubarak were positive and successful. They dealt with various Arab and international issues, he adds, stressing that they will further promote and consolidate bilateral relations and cooperation, particularly in preparing for the meetings of the joint ministerial committees.

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In the interview, President Salih touches on the question of Arab reconciliation, which took up an important part of his talks during his Arab tour, which concluded in Egypt. In this regard, he said that it is inconceivable for the Arabs to engage in a dialogue with Israel—as is the case now, something that has become acceptable—and refuse to converse among themselves as brothers to achieve Arab reconciliation. He pointed out that reconciliation requires common efforts by all Arab leaders, noting that Yemen supports any initiative in that direction. He added that the Arab League could play a role in this regard, particularly since the Arab region is proceeding in the peace march.

He reiterated his condemnation of terrorism and denunciation of the sinful attack against President Mubarak. Expressing regret for all previous such incidents, President Salih noted that terrorism is a negative phenomenon in the Arab world and that all its manifestations and motivations must be condemned. However, President Salih hastened to add that it is also an international phenomenon and that extremists are present everywhere in the world, noting that Islam has nothing to do with terrorism, which is alien to Islam.

In this regard, the Yemeni president denied that Yemen has allowed camps to be established to shelter terrorists on its territory, adding that the accusations in this regard were based on erroneous external information. He noted that now there is coordination between the Yemeni and Egyptian governments which prohibits the sheltering of terrorists and what he described as those who spoil things. He also noted that contacts are under way to sign a security agreement between the two countries for that purpose.

The Yemeni president spoke about the latest developments in Saudi-Yemeni relations. He noted that these relations witnessed considerable progress in recent times and that his visit to Saudi Arabia and talks with King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, were successful and excellent. He stressed that the border problems are over and that Yemen has put forward a draft agreement for the demarcation of borders with Saudi Arabia. The ministerial committees set up for that purpose will complete their work within 4 months, he added.

In another interview, with AL-JUMHURIYAH [on Sunday], the Yemeni president denies that his country proposed acting as a mediator among the Arab states that are at odds. He added: What happened is that we had put forward Yemen's views regarding what we could do as Arab states to put the Arab house in order, within the framework of the principles adhered to by all Arab states.

President Salih strongly denied that his country has sheltered terrorist groups. He added: We are cleansing Yemen of all these elements immediately whenever they appear. He referred to the recent discovery in Yemen of a terrorist organization comprising 14 Egyptians working in Yemen, some of whom are teachers and the rest workers, and they all belong to the al-Jihad Organization. The members of the organizations are being questioned, and the investigations are proceeding according to the law, he added.

Regarding the terrorist hideouts in the Hadhramaut Mountains and among the Yemeni tribes—particularly Usamah Bin-Ladin, who is accused of financing terrorist groups, and Ibn-al-Sultan al-Fadl—the Yemeni president said that the two got to know each other in Afghanistan. There, he added, the two fought together and organized al-Jihad groups to serve in Afghanistan. After Afghanistan, he added, Ibn-al-Sultan returned to Yemen, and Bin-Ladin returned too. He noted that Ibn-al-Sultan is now a leading figure in the [General People's] Congress Party. He pointed out that Ibn-al-Fadl had fought the communists in the south over a blood feud, because they killed his family. Following their collapse, he returned to being a good Yemeni citizen, joined the Congress Party, and worked his way up through its ranks in elections.

Further on Salih Remarks

NC1607193495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has said that during his recent visit to Cairo he suggested to Egypt that it contribute a great share to repairing the damage caused by the war against "the separatists" in the fields of electricity and energy. He added that he also suggested that Egypt meet Yemen's need for skilled labor and that Egyptian teachers return to Yemen.

In an interview to be published tomorrow, Monday, by AL-'ARABI newspaper, mouthpiece of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, he says there was mutual understanding of the importance of instituting cooperation between the two countries by holding an urgent meeting of the joint ministerial committee, which has had a seven-year break in its activity.

In his interview the Yemeni president commented on reports that Yemen has sheltered terrorist groups. He said this phenomenon disappeared completely after the war against the separatists. The separatists, he noted, dominated the resources of the southern governorates during and after the transitional unity period. They granted permission to the Egyptians coming from Afghanistan and

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others such as the al-Jihad group to pass through and allowed their training activities. The separatists, he added, also used them to undermine the unity effort and stability by setting off explosions and committing political assassinations.

The Yemeni president said the Egyptian and Yemeni foreign ministers had reached a draft security agreement on the extradition of criminals. [passage omitted]

Salih Interviewed on Domestic, Arab Issues Reported

JN1707064295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has stressed that Yemen's democratic experience is successful and distinguished. The president said that there is a government coalition comprising the General People Congress and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. He said that the coalition signed between the two parties is based on the Constitution and law, and encourages the opposition to play its role as a constructive, sound, and national opposition.

In a press interview with the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM published yesterday, the brother president of the republic expressed satisfaction with the existing political and party map in our country. He said that there are about 43 parties and over 200 publications in Yemen.

In response to a question on the future of the Yemeni economy, the brother president stressed that the economy is recovering after our Yemeni people rose to defend their unity following the tension which had a negative impact on the national economy. He indicated that the monetary and economic reform program began to yield tangible and good results. He indicated that our country is currently playing a political role and approaching other sisterly and friendly states to help it in the economic construction process and development.

In response to a question on the results of his talks during his Arab tour, the brother president said that they were excellent on the bilateral, pan-Arab, and international levels and were in the interest of the Arab nation. He noted that the talks dealt with the concerns of every Arab leader because they are common concerns. He said that the issue of Arab reconciliation occupied a major part of his talks during his Arab tour, which took him to Qatar, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. He said that there must be joint efforts by all Arab leaders.

In the interview, the president stressed our country's support for any initiative by any Arab leader in addition to Yemen to revive Arab solidarity.

The brother president of the republic reiterated his denunciation of all forms of terrorism. He said that terrorism is a negative phenomenon in the Arab homeland and should be denounced irrespective of its form or motive. He strongly denied that Yemen harbored terrorist groups. He said: We immediately purge Yemen of all such elements if they appear.

The interview dealt with a number of local, Arab, and international issues.

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Saddam Meets Congressman, Pardons Jailed Americans

JN1607113195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Bill Richardson, U.S. congressman and head of the organizers of the minority party voters.

During the meeting, Mr. Richardson conveyed a humanitarian appeal from President William Clinton, president of the United States of America, and from the U.S. Congress and people to Persident Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, requesting him to use his constitutional powers for humanitarian reasons to pardon the two American prisoners William Barloon and David Daliberti, who crossed Iraq's borders illegally and were sentenced to eight years in prison in accordance with the Iraqi law.

President Saddam Husayn informed Mr. Richardson that he will respond to the appeal by President William Clinton, the Congress, and the American people. His excellency has ordered that a presidential decree be prepared pardoning the two prisoners and releasing them immediately.

His excellency stressed to the U.S. congressman that he wishes that heads of states, especially the strong states, would observe the humanitarian considerations when dealing with all issues, whether pertaining to individuals or peoples.

It is noteworthy that his highness the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, has appealed to the president to pardon the two U.S. prisoners. Heads of states and governments and their representatives had earlier made similar appeals.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the delegation accompanying the U.S. congressman.

INA has learned that the procedures to release the two U.S. prisoners began after the issuance of the presidential decree pardoning them, and that they will leave Iraq tomorrow morning in the company of U.S. Congressman Richardson.

Defense Minister Relieved of Party Duties

JN1607205595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader comrade Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has chaired the first working meeting of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party, after the 11th Party Congress, the congress of the crossing. In accordance with party traditions, the meeting distributed responsibilities on the Iraq Command members as follows:

1. The Iraq Command has decided to relieve 'Ali Hasan al-Majid of his [party] responsibilities at the Ministry of Defense and to entrust him with the task of leading the party's organizations in Baghdad, al-Karkh, and supervising the Workers Office. [qarrarat al-qiyadah tafrigh al-rafiq 'ali hasan al-majid min mas'uliyatihi fi wizarat al-difa' wa taklifihi fi tawalli qiyadat tanzimat al-hizb fi bagdhad-al-karkh wa tawalli mas'uliyat maktab al-'ummal]

2. Entrusting comrade Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi with the task of leading the party's organizations in Baghdad, al-Rasafah, and supervising the Peasants Office.

3. Entrusting comrade Mizban Khadr Hadi with the task of leading the party's organizations in the Governorate of Ninawa.

4. Entrusting comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih with the task of supervising the Students and Youths Office.

5. Entrusting comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur with the task of supervising the Professional Office and the Students and Youths Office as acting official in charge during the absence of comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

6. Entrusting comrade Kamil Yasin Rashid with the task of leading the Party's organizations in the governorates of Diyala and al-Anbar.

7. Entrusting comrade Muhammad Yunis al-Ahmad with the task of leading the party's organizations in the governorates of al-Ta'mim and Salah-al-Din.

8. Entrusting comrade 'Ali Salih al-Numan with the task of leading the party's organizations in the governorates of Maysan and Wasit.

9. Entrusting comrade Radi Hasan Salman with the task of leading the party's organizations in the governorates of al-Najaf, al-Qadisiyah, and al-Muthanna.

10. Entrusting comrade Samir 'Aziz al-Najm with the task of acting official in charge of the Military Office.

11. Entrusting comrade Fadil al-Mashhadani with the task of leading the party's organizations in the governorates of Babil and Karbala'.

12. Entrusting comrade 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun with the task of leading the Party's organizations in the governorates of al-Basrah and Dhi Qar.

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13. Entrusting comrade Tariq 'Aziz with the task of supervising the Foreign Relations Office.

The meeting as attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office.

Saddam Delivers Jul Revolution Anniversary Speech

JN1707085495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 0705 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn marking the 27th anniversary of the 17-30 July Revolution; place and date *not given — live or recorded*]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great people, O sons of our glorious nation, O sons of our valiant Armed Forces, may God's peace and blessing be upon you. When the July of the revolution visits us to revive the memory which does not forget the July Revolution anniversary which is of exalted significance in our modern age in the course of its long journey, something emerges before us, which necessitates that we speak about and give an answer to. This is in addition to the big question which necessitated answers to the past situations, and which the revolution had replied to on the morning of 17 July. The answer was completed in the second chapter in the afternoon of 30 July. This is why the revolution was given the name of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution.

The revolution put all Iraq at the doors of special action and aspirations. Before anything else, the revolutionaries provided the revolution with extraordinary capabilities. They crowned it with principles which constitute the crown of struggle and bloody jihad by the party of the revolution and our great people.

When we talk about the revolution on this beautiful and lofty anniversary, we find that the stage necessitates that we recall specific questions, in addition to briefly answering them. These questions include: What is revolution, and why? When certain people relinquish their role in civilization and in embodying the exalted principles and values so as to take their position in history in accordance with their weight and aspirations — in other words, when the people's ability to play their role and embody principles which should be clear in their action are reduced at a certain historical stage as a result of a certain negligence by their regime due to backwardness or impotence in thought and action, due to agentry or subservience to a foreigner, or due to any other reason on which the people are unanimous that it cannot be reformed through the common means and ways—the people and the homeland will then face a historical impasse. Searching for a way out of the impasse to save the people and to make them proceed toward exalted values, principles, and role, will also become a national duty. Finding a way out of the impasse becomes necessary, and relinquishing it will undermine the nationalism of the sons of the people or some of them in the homeland, or will even cancel it for some time.

But, did it happen that peoples who suffered historic dilemmas rebel at the same time? Did they see the need for revolution, and visualize the policy lines to be pursued and the alternative options to replace unacceptable phenomena so that they may become living parts of the rebellious masses from the start line up to the set objectives? It is only proper and fair to say that the answer is that peoples do not rebel, and are not aware of the alternative options to unacceptable phenomena at the same time. This is because their awareness is not of the same degree and level. When peoples suffer historic dilemmas, the majority crystallizes a firm stand based on national certainty away from foreign interventions. This stand is grounded in the assumption that the existing state of affairs must have a purely national and efficient alternative. This is because the preparedness of peoples, their strata, and their classes, as well as their willingness to make sacrifices at extremely delicate turning points are not of the same level. That is why some revolutions do not start at their expected start lines, whereas others emerge ahead of their expected start lines. Certain people stand out prominently among the ranks of the revolutionaries who accomplish revolutionary tasks. Still others surpass them.

Based on these meanings, our mujahidin within the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, spearheaded by their leadership, stepped forward to fire the spark of the glorious July revolution on 17 July, and consummate this revolution on 30 July. Based on this and other nationalist meanings as well as the standards of fairness, the vanguards earned the top level in terms of supremacy, weight, and standing, as made manifestly clear at the start line, and also at successive historic turning points in the revolution's great march.

The special people who are proceeding with this revolution are marked by the traits and supremacy derived from the significance of the phases experienced by the line of struggle, jihad, and construction. An awareness of the historic dilemma, in which the people and the homeland are not placed at the gates of salvation, is not enough by itself to achieve the objective of salvation. The achievement of this objective is made possible when there is a comprehensive alternative that opts for revolution and its vehicles to uphold its principles and purposes. The blanket and sweeping alternative to the unacceptable policy line rejected by the revolution does

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not materialize when the regime is toppled, particularly since the revolution is not a vindictive or retaliatory machine, but rather a historical process with advanced and radical cultural significance and purposes. The people and the homeland are not done a great service when the revolutionaries realize that the people and the homeland are suffering a historic dilemma, especially when there is a shortage of the acts that need to be carried out, or when there is a failure to carry out such acts against the background of unattached and unshackled national capabilities and their sublime pan-Arab goals. The specialness and supremacy of the men who forged this chapter are derived from the accomplishments they made in this very chapter. They do not extend to all other purposes and chapters of the revolution and its successive policy lines unless these men persist with the revolution's concepts, goals, and requirements without interruption.

On the basis of these meanings, the revolutionaries found, after 30 July and after they seriously shouldered the government administration, that they were in a continuous state of revolution toward several social, political, economic, cultural, and other concepts. This means that they were in a state in which comprehensive and deep change was necessary through using means that were not used in the rejected heritage of the past regime. The achievements began in accordance with the revolution's concepts after 30 July 1968, and continued in an upward nonstop trend.

It is natural to say that some of these achievements—because they are based on innovation and not on readily imitated formulas, and because they were realized amid circumstances of continuous conspiracies by foreign and reactionary Arab sides—faltered or temporarily failed, others were delayed, while other achievements were made earlier than scheduled. It happened that some innovative decisions strayed from the set objective, and some of the marginal decisions were lost in the general life. However, the main line of these decisions made great, comprehensive, honorable, and deep achievements concerning central objectives. The basis and national intention continued to be making the people happy and rescuing them from backwardness, and promoting the honor and meanings of the homeland and patriotism away from the plots and influence of the foreigner. The national intention was also to begin a nationalist, pan-Arab, and humanitarian role for Iraq that is in line with what it deserves and in line with what Baghdad—the capital of al-Mansur and al-Rashid [Abbaside caliphs]—deserves.

The revolutionaries of the great 17-30 July revolution acted on the basis of these meanings and values. On the basis of these meanings too, the leadership of the command continued to move forward and to renew itself full of determination, faith, and hope, and continued to resist all attempts by the failed and deluded ones who tried to return the Iraqi people to the past situation or to make them stray from their track and renege on their principles and achievements and destroy their serious and substantial aspirations and hopes.

On the basis of these concepts, the people which was suffering from poverty, illness, and backwardness before the revolution were transformed into a people full of enthusiasm, with brilliant minds that invokes wisdom, patience, and ability to deal with science, and inspired by the great roles in the deep history of great Iraq and the honorable history of the nation. The ability of these people and their patience have been the most important element of the biggest surprise to the enemies of Iraq, the nation, and humanity whether before August 1990, or when the enemies decided to antagonize Iraq as happened in the greatest duel of the immortal Mother of Battles with all its chapters, and political, media, military, and conspiratorial chapters and arenas. Most important of these chapters is this unjust and evil siege.

Based on these principles too, no single generation can be considered the only generation of the revolution, no matter how honorable its memories. No generation can be considered the only child and pioneer of the revolution. Every devoted child of the people and the homeland can be considered so, each according to his capabilities and ability to make maximum use of these capabilities to serve the objectives of the revolution and its great principles in a manner that enhances the status of the homeland, serves the people, and defends their accomplishments. But most importantly, the people must be free of any foreign influence and pressure.

Glorious Iraqi men, glorious Iraqi women: This is a revolution that rejects colonialism and subordination and rejects that the Iraqi people's resources and capabilities in building the lofty cultural edifice and in defending it be restrained. This is an indispensable condition for Iraq to overcome backwardness and occupy its vanguard position within its Arab nation. Every young man and woman and every citizen, male of female, who followed the course of this revolution, and every Iraqi young man and woman and all Iraqi citizens in general who did their part and continue to do so toward these principles in building the cultural, scientific, technical, economic, political, and social edifice and in defending that edifice during the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah Battle [the 1980-88 war with Iran] and the immortal Mother of Battles is considered one of the July revolutionaries and a faithful pioneer in its immortal march. This is so even if he or she did not take part in the historic events of the morning of 17 July 1968 or the afternoon of 30 July, particularly at 1500. Still, this does not lessen the

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weight, advantage of precedence, and merits acquired by the revolutionaries of those hours and the mujahidin who carried the banner of struggle at every stage of the bloody struggle against the enemies of struggle, the people, and the homeland before the actual occurrence of the revolution on its two glorious days. That is why this revolution can be adequately described as a revolution faithful to its principles and people, and to the significance of the transfer of the banner from one generation to another and the continuation of its immortal principles.

Therefore, the greatest reward for the generation of the early stages and the first victory is to keep the same principles, transfer them from one generation to another, and to maintain this tireless and equal coexistence among all those generations, led by those with qualities that make them worthy of being at the front.

Every Iraqi young man and woman, and every zealous nationalist who has performed his duty toward the homeland and confronted every impasse in which the foreign criminals sought to squeeze the homeland and the people, or performed his nationalist duty in the lofty edifice with accuracy, trust, and persistence, is one of the revolutionaries of the July revolution. All zealous young men and women, male and female citizens, who are concerned about their honest national role in serving their people through development, and performing their duty toward resisting backwardness and its causes, and toward building great Iraq, motivated by nationalist feelings and efforts which do not harm their people, are July revolutionaries.

O great people. O renewing sun and illuminating moon, the young men and women of great Iraq, let everyone of you ponder these principles, especially since you, as I know you, are concerned about having an exalted position where history records your patience, steadfastness, and resistance. Anyone who finds that his role or position might be undermined should try to advance forward, correct his mistakes, relinquish corruption, and reunite with virtue and firm nationalism. Joining the rear position of the march can still enable one to reach the front position if he is determined to do so out of a national zeal and honor and after he relies on God Almighty, the merciful, the compassionate.

And we shall try you until we test those among you who strive their utmost and preserve in patience; and We shall try your reported mettle. [Koranic verse] Those who failed to bear the burden of the stage, which is a heavy burden and a big test, and relinquished their national role and commitment on the pretext of being too weak to bear the burden or too weak to resist illegitimate temptations, can reassume their national responsibilities and the burden of jihad for the cause of God if they rely on God. God loves those who keep themselves pure and clean. [Koranic verses]

Anyone who failed to do something can go back and do it. In fact, any person who deviated from the right path or was tempted by Satan, anyone who exploited the people, and anyone who frightened children and their families through any action which encroached on their security, including their food security, can rejoin the march of nationalism and the homeland if he relies on God. In fact, he can join the July revolutionaries. This was the case of the Muslims and believers in early Islam. Some people even fought against Islam at the beginning, but later they became sincere and faithful.

Those who made mistakes and the deviationists now have such an opportunity. We will assist all those who sincerely grasp this opportunity, criticize their past, and decisively put it behind them so that the doors to honor and virtue may be opened to them, not to mention the doors to sound stands, roles, and actions after they persisted in mistakes and sins and wallowed in them, unable to extricate themselves from all this without a lifesaver. Thus, we will once again assume the role we had carried out at the start of the revolution. The course of the revolution continues to be replete with values of salvation, honest nationalism, and pride, and pan-Arabism meanings our nation requires from all those who want to be among its devoted sons.

All of us, the generation of the revolution's start line did not come to power within the course of a handover of jobs. Not one of us was brought to power by the foreigner, or by the balance of the centers of power, and the big powers. We came to power through the revolution in implementation of the people's wish who rejected the course of the past regimes, a revolution whose meanings have become clear. That's why we did not take over ready made things that were commensurate with the role, potential, and aspirations of Iraq and the Iraqis. We created, modified, developed, and changed everything by depending on the merciful and the compassionate until we attained what became a suitable state of affairs in terms of great and lofty meanings. That's why we will not forget this role of ours under any circumstances in our endeavor to assist all those who need to help themselves and who, without having any false hopes, value the meaning of such assistance. Thus, those who have deviated from the sound course will return to it, and those who have isolated themselves from the people will make peace with themselves and their people to become an active and genuine part of this people. They could become devoted sons for us, the people, and the homeland if they place their fate in God's hands, have sincere intentions,

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discard all sins, resume the role they had previously assumed, and follow the majority.

Great people, the people of the two al-Qadisiyah battles and the immortal Mother of Battles: I do not believe you are unaware of the bitterness of our tribulation and the depth of our pain when we hear the moaning of ill people who ask for a medicine we cannot provide as a result of the embargo, sense the suffering of a helpless woman who cannot secure necessary things for her life and that of her children, and the helplessness of a man who cannot fulfill the needs of his family.

Dear citizens: Each and every one of you bears the weight or pressures of your own family or acquaintances. As for us, we feel and bear the responsibilities for all the circumstances, with their details, which may come to your mind, or which you may not visualize. The blockade has been in place for five years of suffering and honorable action, and stand. The concerned Iraqis have carried out all that was demanded by the Security Council resolutions. They are unprecedented resolutions that are unfair, tough, and arbitrary. This has been accompanied by enormous pain, particularly since the eyes have seen and the ears have heard how the malicious parties destroyed many pieces of equipment owned by the Iraqis, which could have been used for civilian purposes to achieve progress and prosperity for the Iraqi people.

Throughout the past five years, they moved from one topic to another, and from one demand to another in a bid to waste time as part of their delaying tactics. Meanwhile, Iraq has met their demands in the hope that the sufferings of our people under the sanctions may be ended.

Now that all this time has passed and the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people has not been lifted, it is high time for the despots responsible for the suffering of our people to respond to what is fair and what conforms with the resolutions they adopted without listening to the opinion or voice of Iraq. It is high time that all the steps we have undertaken be exchanged for the Security Council's fulfillment of its obligations as stipulated in its resolutions. Iraq—people and leadership—cannot continue to implement the resolutions and meet the demands of the UN Special Commission without this being linked to lifting the blockade.

All honorable and fair-minded people, be they members of the UN Security Council or not, have acknowledged Iraq's right to see the sanctions clamped on it lifted.

O great people: Nowadays, you are required to tell the despots, aggressors, and those with ill intentions in one voice and with one mind and one conscience, as you have done every time the march moved to safe shores to achieve certain victory, that we are a great people who cannot accept humiliation or injustice, that we cannot fall prey to any deceit, and that we cannot accept annexation or slavery, except to God, the creator of the heavens and the earth.

O lofty men and glorious women: You are required to say this in word and deed. You must say in clear, noble, and loud words to all sore-eyed and deaf people, and to all friends and all enemies that from now on, we will make no sacrifices unless our sacrifices are reciprocated with what they deserve; namely, the lifting of the embargo without the attachment of colonialist conditions, and without any deceitfulness, procrastination, or deception.

All men, glorious women, and even children and the elderly are required to do that. God will help us as long as we continue to help one another along the path of virtue and right.

Long live the revolutionary mujahidin.

Long live the faithful, struggler, mujahid generations of the revolution.
Long live the mujahidin and strugglers of the Arab nation.
Long live Palestine as a free and Arab country.
Glory to its righteous martyrs.
Long live the martyrs of our glorious nation.
Long live Iraq as a lofty, robust, powerful, and healthy country.
Long live Iraq as a lofty banner, a refined example to its nation, and a support to mankind.
Long live Iraq.
God is great, God is great, and may the lowly be accursed.

Tariq 'Aziz Reportedly Requests Asylum in France

NC1507151595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian paper AL-MASA', in its issue published the day before yesterday, reported from Paris that [Iraqi deputy prime minister] Tariq 'Aziz had asked the French authorities to grant him political asylum in France. This report has not been confirmed by any other source.

Tariq 'Aziz has become the target of a media campaign spearheaded by the Youth Television, which holds 'Aziz responsible for the failure of the Saddam regime's foreign policy.

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Former Chief of Staff Said Moved to Secret Jail

NC1607151095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There are reports circulating in Baghdad that Iyad Futayh al-Rawi, former chief of staff of the Iraqi Army, has been moved from his home, where he was under house arrest, to a secret jail, after the ruling regime's security agencies banned all contacts or meetings with him.

Al-Rawi refused to accept the position of governor of al-Anbar following the outbreak of the recent uprising against Saddam Husayn's regime by al-Dulaym tribes in al-Ramadi. As is known, al-Rawi hails from al-Ramadi and his home town, Rawah, is administratively affiliated to al-Anbar Governorate. His tribe maintains close relations with the al-Dulaym tribes.

Opposition Says Planes, Helicopters Moved to Tikrit

JN1507161895 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Words indistinct] in Baghdad have admitted that the tyrant has recently ordered the transfer of fighter planes and helicopters from the al-Habbaniyah air base, 80 km west of Baghdad, to the Tikrit air base. The sources said that this Saddamist measure was adopted after the widespread rejection of the bloodthirsty regime by the people of al-Ramadi.

Political observers believe that this new step by Saddam is an indication of his fear of a possible new military movement this time from al-Habbaniyah air base in coordination with other military units in al-Anbar Governorate, many of whose men take sensitive positions in the Army.

The security situation in al-Ramadi and suburbs are still extremely tense, witnessing armed clashes between the people and the regime's henchmen every now and then.

Damaged Helicopters Being Restored Despite Embargo

NC1507140095 Paris AFP in English 1316 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 15 (AFP) — Iraq has begun to repair dozens of helicopters damaged in its conflict with Iran and the 1991 Gulf War after restoring its land forces, Iraqi papers said Saturday [15 July].

The son of President Saddam Husayn, 'Udayy, is in charge of the operation, according to the papers, which did not say how Iraq, under crippling UN sanctions since August 1990, had managed to obtain spare parts.

Saddam has called on Iraqis "to rely on their own means" to overcome the UN oil and trade embargo imposed when Baghdad invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Youth television late Friday showed pictures of 'Udayy inspecting the work which began in May and talking to technicians in charge of restoring several dozen helicopters. Some were damaged in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, and others in the Gulf conflict.

'Udayy has "given instructions to complete the task swiftly as a present for President Saddam."

At the end of April a new 60,000-strong corps of Iraqi volunteers took part in a military parade in Baghdad along with heavy weapons including assault tanks, armoured troop transporters and anti-aircraft guns restored in 1994.

SAIRI: Jihad To Continue 'Regardless of Circumstances'

JN1507162995 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting with a gathering of Iraqi Mujahidin, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has repeated our Mujahidin's firm stand on their cause, regardless of the circumstances, until the final victory is realized and the Iraqi people are free of the tyrant and his regime. He said the allegations and rumors against our political movement of jihad are baseless, being an invention of our enemies.

In the meeting, his eminence alluded to Iraq-Iran relations and their future, noting that this concerns the Islamic Republic of Iran whose policy is proceeding on a firm basis and can never change.

His eminence said: We are waging a battle against unjust and arrogant forces that want to wipe out Islam and extinguish its flame. This requires us to stand firmly against enemy plots until God gives permission for victory.

Concluding, his eminence said: The tyrant's regime cannot live with its neighbors and with the people of Iraq. No matter what concessions he makes or changes he effects, it will continue to be a family regime which cares only for itself at the expense of millions whose wealth is being squandered. The events of al-Ramadi and their aftermath is an evidence that this hangman

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has become more tyrannical, that he is indulging in the policy of repression and oppression. Al-Hakim praised the fraternal and humanitarian care the Iraqis who live in the Islamic republic are receiving and thanked Iran's unlimited care and concern at these difficult circumstances of the Iraqi Mulsim people.

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Rabin: Differences With Syria Not 'Technical'

TA1707123895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the differences of opinion between Israel and Syria should not be defined as technical, as the U.S. secretary of state is doing. We are dealing here with a violation of a Syrian commitment made to Warren Christopher during his recent visit to the region. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that at the time a three-stage move was agreed upon: the chiefs of staff meeting, to be followed by a visit of the U.S. peace team aimed at preparing the next stage of the talks. Contrary to what has been agreed, the Syrians are now proposing to hold an ambassadors meeting with military men being called to participate as the need arises. Rabin believes this is a violation of the agreement to hold a meeting of experts on the security arrangements issue.

The prime minister noted he has not been informed by official channels about a Christopher visit to the region, although Israel will obviously not oppose such a visit. The prime minister emphasized there is no stalemate in the talks with Syria, noting this may merely be a slowdown in the process.

Turning to another issue, the prime minister today came to Yasir 'Arafat's defense in the wake of the harsh criticism included in the Amnesty report regarding the repression of Islamic activists by the PLO in the territories under 'Arafat's control. In an address to Israel Bonds activists, Rabin expressed hope that the Amnesty report will not receive international support, because the PLO is trying to fight terrorism and Israel expects it to do even more.

Ambassador-Level Talks Offered

TA1607095995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jul 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel is willing to continue the negotiations with Syria at the ambassador level in Washington in order not to close the dialogue venue. It will not agree, however, to Ambassadors Rabinovich and al-Mu'allim conducting the detailed discussions on the security arrangements. This was stated by a senior Israeli source yesterday.

The source said Israel is demanding the resumption of officers talks on security arrangements on the basis of the format agreed upon, without any preconditions regarding the agenda of the talks. At the same time the senior source noted that the Syrians do not want to completely halt the talks. Over the weekend, a senior Syrian official stated that the ambassador negotiations will continue in Washington.

So far no meeting has been scheduled between Rabinovich and al- Mu'allim. Over the weekend, Israeli and American sources criticized Syrian President al-Asad for refusing to resume the officers talks and for his demand that Israel forgo its demand to position early warning stations on the Golan Heights as a condition for continuing the military talks. The sources say al-Asad has violated the understandings regarding the orderly stages of the negotiations which were achieved during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region last month.

American sources said that "a side that undertakes a commitment must abide by it." A senior Israeli source assessed that the United States will find it difficult to ignore the slight to Christopher's honor. In his talk with Dennis Ross last Thursday, Prime Minister Rabin reacted sharply to the Syrian position. Rabin said: "In June we agreed on a scenario for the continuation of the talks in the wake of the agreement on the document of understandings. Al-Asad concluded things with the secretary of state, the secretary checked it with me and then again with al-Asad, and then he announced it. If al-Asad is now saying: Hold on, now we do not accept early warning stations — then I will not abide by the order agreed upon. We do not accept this for two reasons. First, we agreed to hold direct negotiations with the Syrians, but they are willing to speak with us only with American participation, thus turning the secretary of state into a central player in the negotiations. Now they cannot renege on an understanding achieved with him and by him. Second, we will not allow al-Asad to use procedural matters as a ploy to extract from us concessions on substantial issues." [passage omitted]

Over the weekend an Israeli source in Washington explained to Israeli correspondents that al-Asad is demanding the reaching of an agreement with Israel on early warning methods before agreeing to continue the security talks in the format they were slated to take in mid-July. The Syrians propose reverting to the previous format of ambassadors talks with the participation of non-senior officers. They refuse to advance to the stage of formal negotiations between military delegations.

The Israeli source said Israel regards this as a withdrawal to a dialogue which is lower-profile than what was agreed on and publicly stated by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher.

The source said that so far no meeting has been scheduled with Syrian Ambassador al-Mu'allim. He

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added that "Israel will not close any options," but if the Syrians insist on their position there is potential for a crisis in the peace talks. [passage omitted]

The Israeli source said that in their talks with Dennis Ross, the Syrians expressed total opposition to the positioning of early warning stations on the ground, even on the basis of the reciprocity principle concluded in the draft paper which enabled the resumption of the chief of staff talks. He assessed that the Radio Damascus report regarding Syria's agreement for ground stations was a "trial balloon," or a premature exposure of a concession Syria was reserving for a later stage in the negotiations.

The source said the main issue now is Syrian-American relations, because the Syrians "have somewhat blemished this relationship by harming the secretary of state's credibility." The next developments are expected to take place on the American-Syrian track. We can expect phone calls between Washington and Damascus rather than another Christopher visit to the region. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 16 July adds: "Speaking in Paris yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the United States has invested great efforts in the negotiations with Syria, and should now draw conclusions from the status of the negotiations."

[Qol Yisra'el's 0500 GMT Hebrew newscast adds: "Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin does not regard the holdup in the negotiations with Syria as a crisis or rupture between the sides. Beilin believes intensive work must be done over the next few months in order to determine whether this is a Syrian tactical move or a basic unwillingness to score progress toward a peace agreement. Deputy Minister Beilin told Qol Yisra'el that Israel is interested in resuming the officers talks on security arrangements and does not want to bring forward the ambassador talks just to keep up a facade of continuing the peace process."]

Peres Blames Syria for Current 'Crisis'

TA1507130395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 15 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Paris by Karmit Gay in Jerusalem from the "Weekly Newsreel" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Paris.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Gay] Does the current crisis in the talks with Syria stem from tactical considerations or is it real?

[Peres] With Syria, one can never know, nor can I tell the difference between a tactical crisis and an authentic crisis. A crisis is a serious thing in itself and does not require any adjectives. I must say, however, that I am very happy that no one can lay the blame on Israel. This crisis was created by Syria, without any Israeli involvement or responsibility.

[Gay] I think the Americans are also blaming Syria exclusively this time and have no complaints about us.

[Peres] And rightly so. This also shows that we were wise not to present ourselves as stubborn, stuck in our ways, or closed-minded. On the contrary, on numerous occasions we demonstrated our genuine and burning desire to reach a peace agreement with Syria.

[Gay] Does the issue of the early warning stations constitute a red line? I no longer know what color lines to talk about.

[Peres] The problem is not about red lines but rather the lack of a runway from which to take off. One cannot negotiate in brief spurts. You must sit down at the table and discuss the four or five problems on the agenda in the serious and appropriate fashion befitting negotiations on an issue as vital as peace.

[Gay] How do you explain the change in mood from the beginning of the week, which started off very optimistically with Dennis Ross' arrival in the region? What happened along the way?

[Peres] I do not think I can explain it. I can only say that with regard to Syria, things are unpredictable in either direction. In other words, when there is optimism it comes unexpectedly, and when developments slow down it is equally unpredictable.

[Gay] In your assessment, will the officers talks not be resumed?

[Peres] I would not write off these talks. They may be resumed. In the meantime, however, Syria is raising many obstacles while failing to take the time factor into account. Time is running out.

[Gay] Is this because of the elections in the United States and Israel, which are scheduled to take place next year?

[Peres] Among other things, yes. Generally speaking, when negotiations become protracted, there is always the danger of the talks dragging on beyond their timeframe and the crucial dates. This, for example, is one of the reasons we prefer to set dates with the

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Palestinians, even if we have to postpone them later on by a week or two. A date is always preferable, because it serves as a kind of benchmark to sum up negotiations on various issues.

[Gay] We will move on to discuss the talks with the Palestinians in a moment, but let me ask another question with regard to the talks with the Syrians. The Syrians are demanding that Israel declare its readiness to withdraw from the Golan Heights or specify the borderline to which it is willing to withdraw before holding discussions on the security arrangements, while Israel wants the exact opposite. Can this contradiction be resolved?

[Peres] I do not think either party can demand of the other to state its final stand while it continues to stand by its opening positions. This is simply inconceivable. Israel said that it accepts the idea of withdrawal on the Golan Heights in principle, but it is absurd to demand that Israel start off by agreeing to all of Syria's demands before the negotiations even begin. Syria's demand for equality in security arrangements is also illogical. When there is only one mountain area, you cannot talk of equality in security. The one who controls the mountain area has an advantage. If there were two Golan Heights or two mountain areas, one could talk about equality. Therefore, when the Syrians demand that we withdraw from the Golan Heights, they themselves should offer some sort of security compensation, whether this be early warning stations or something else.

[Gay] With your permission, let us move on to the talks on the Palestinian track, which resumed yesterday in Zikhron Ya'aqov. Incidentally, why in Zikhron Ya'aqov?

[Peres] It is a beautiful place.

[Gay] True. What is missing in order to complete the agreement?

[Peres] We still have to finish quite a lot of paperwork. Although a great part of the contents of the documents has already been prepared, we still have to set things down on paper, and this is a bit more complicated than just picking up a pen. We still have to formulate and agree on the phrasing. In addition, I believe there are several other issues that will require a great deal of thought or what is now called creativity in order to reach an agreement.

[Gay] What issues, for example?

[Peres] Water, for one. The problems of water and sewage, especially in a region as poor in water as Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, must be handled with a high degree of responsibility and talent. Since this resource is rather scarce and the water table is in pretty bad shape, while on the other hand the sewage, unless treated, can endanger the water supply.... [pauses] The water system is treated almost like a concert in order to maintain a supply of clean water on one hand, while managing the sewage system in a responsible manner on the other. If I were to compare this to a concert, I would say there must be one conductor but the notes must be played by several partners. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to manage.

[Gay] Are technical terms already being worked out in these talks or are there still fundamental differences in the most basic sense?

[Peres] I do not think we have reached agreement on the format by which to manage the water system. We are definitely [word indistinct] water to the Palestinians. We also agreed to set up a coordinating committee, but there are still many details that must be ironed out and agreed on.

[Gay] While you have been in Paris, the right-wing rabbis published a ruling, and this pertains to the emerging agreement with the Palestinians. The attorney general decided not to pursue any legal steps against these rabbis. How do you think these rabbis should be handled? What steps can be taken against this phenomenon on the political level?

[Peres] This is more of a constitutional issue than a legal one. This is one of the most shocking things to have occurred in the State of Israel since its inception. This challenges the very democratic foundations of our state. In a democracy, everyone is equal. No one enjoys special privileges or issues orders on their own behalf. In a democracy, the majority rules, while clearly taking the minority's views into account. The call to reject the majority's decision constitutes a challenge to the country's democratic foundation. No one, including a rabbi, has or will ever receive the authority to do so. We must defend our democracy just as we defend the state itself. One cannot differentiate between a free regime and a free country.

[Gay] Quite a few commentators, as well as some members of the right-wing camp, noted that this halakic ruling is really a call by the settlers and the right wing for a dialogue with the government. Some of their representatives held a very unsuccessful meeting with the prime minister. They complain that no one talks to them. Would you launch a dialogue with them?

[Peres] To the best of my knowledge, no one has ever refused to talk to them. Contacts are held on all levels, and I also talk to them. They are Israeli citizens just like everyone else, and we must talk to and protect

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them. The reason that the negotiations, both in Oslo as well as the current ones, have been so difficult is because we sought to safeguard the existing settlements and protect the lives of the settlers while keeping their security Israel's responsibility. I am a little sad that the settlers have proved incapable of appreciating this. No one forced us to do this. We did not agree to remove any settlements and insisted that Israel and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] retain responsibility for the security of the Israelis in the territories.

[Gay] Another issue that made headlines over the past week and on which, I believe, you have not commented is the YEDI'OT AHARONOT probe into Ehud Baraq and the Ze'elim B disaster. You are one of Ehud Baraq's strongest political supporters and one of those who encouraged him to enter politics. He had a rather unpleasant welcome, did he not?

[Peres] I believe he was badly wronged. One does not treat someone like that on the basis of rumors and remarks taken out of context, even when such remarks were the result of understandable pain. The first time I saw Ehud Baraq in action was when the Sabena plane was hijacked and he led the team that stormed the aircraft. To say that he fears to engage in battle is sheer libel. One must treat people with respect and consideration. He was attacked while he was abroad and his name was plastered across huge headlines that fully contradict the legal conclusions reached by the IDF itself. You know, they say the United Kingdom does not have a written constitution because the entire British constitution is based on one sentence: It is not done [last four words in English]. One does not do such things. This also holds true for any democratic system. Some things are simply not done. I believe Ehud Baraq is a very talented and courageous man. I am sure that he will make a very valuable contribution to the government.

[Gay] Beyond saying that such things are not done to a specific individual, do you support the call to establish outside bodies to investigate military training accidents?

[Peres] I think this would entail a heavy price, because military judiciary conditions are different from those in civilian courts. If we entrust young commanders with the responsibility for the lives of many young people, then I believe we can trust the IDF's legal arm to give appropriate consideration to the military conditions when conducting military investigations. There are also venues for appeal in Israel; however, one can appeal against the military jurisdiction. Nothing is closed. It would be a mistake, however, to entrust the commanders with the responsibility for young lives and then to say that we do not trust them.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Says Israel Ready for Peace With Syria

AU1607144895 Berlin DIE WELT in German 14 Jul 95 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Lothar Ruehl; place and date not given: "Jordan and the PLO Are Avoiding Syria's Influence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ruehl] Israel is currently engaged in two negotiations for peace — direct negotiations with the Palestinians and negotiations with Syria through U.S. mediation. What are the chances for peace between Israel and Syria?

[Peres] The Syrian foreign minister and the vice president have indicated that Syria is now interested in achieving peace within a briefer period. We, for our part, have always been ready for that. Damascus could have had peace with us 18 years go.

[Ruehl] Under what conditions?

[Peres] Under the same conditions as Egypt after President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. President al-'Asad did not come to Israel then or later. If he had come, he could have found the same peace as al-Sadat did for Egypt.

[Ruehl] How do you explain the change of mind in Damascus?

[Peres] Al-'Asad did not want to join al-Sadat's peace policy, because he competed with al-Sadat and others for political leadership among the Arabs. For this purpose he used the "the image of enemy Israel" and turned the fight against Israel in a long war into a criterion of Arab policy. By doing this he neglected the real interests of Syria and the other Arab states, in particular, however, the interests of the Palestinians.

[Ruehl] All this then gradually changed as a result of the international developments?

[Peres] Over the past years Syria has lost three preconditions for its policy of refusing peace with Israel:

1. The Soviet Union as a supplier of weapons;
2. The Arab Gulf states as the providers of money;
3. Israel as an alibi for the state of war.

Without these three preconditions it could not and will not be able to wage war against Israel nor prevent peace in the future.

[Ruehl] Has al-'Asad tried to use the new situation as of 1991 to achieve Syrian influence — as a new client of the United States — on Jordan and the PLO and thus on the envisaged peace settlement for Palestine?

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[Peres] If he had tried this, the attempt would have failed. Syria cannot adopt a dominating position anymore. Jordan and the Palestinians are avoiding Syrian influence. Al-'Asad probably expected the negotiations between Israel and the PLO as well as the rapprochement between us and Jordan to fail. He was wrong in that. The success of the negotiations was a surprise for Damascus.

[Ruehl] Do you see that this insight has gained ground in Damascus? And what is Lebanon's importance for peace between Syria and Israel?

[Peres] I think that nowadays the Syrians are realistic enough to see what their real situation is. As regards Jordan and Palestine, Syria cannot determine their policy and can no longer successfully intervene in their internal affairs. As regards Lebanon, its future primarily depends on peace between Syria and Israel. Beirut needs a government that is able to control the country and to keep peace. Syria could make sure of that, because it has an armed force of 35,000 soldiers in Lebanon. Damascus could long have ensured peace on our northern border with Lebanon or could at least have essentially contributed to it.

[Ruehl] Peace with Syria must be concluded by dealing with the Golan. The Israeli Government has repeatedly declared its readiness for that and for withdrawing its troops from the Golan. To what extent? And can Israel live safely with a Syrian border at the foot of the Golan Heights near the River Jordan?

[Peres] There are several obstacles to peace, whose effects are linked. Peace must be comprehensive. Any peace between Israel and its neighbors has four essential aspects:

1. Really peaceful relations via open borders as a goal;
2. Time for the implementation and consolidation of peace;
3. Security arrangements on both sides;
4. Agreement on territorial matters.

Syria demands "equal security." We have accepted this principle. But now the Syrians want "equal geographical security," and this is not possible. There can be no "equal geographical security" around the Golan on both sides.

[Ruehl] What border with Syria can Israel imagine at the Golan Heights — after all, the Egyptian principle is "land for peace"?

[Peres] So far, Israel has not committed itself to any specific borderline, because setting down the border is the business of the negotiations for a peace treaty. This also applies to the troop withdrawal and to security agreements.

[Ruehl] But this has not yet been discussed in the Israeli-Syrian talks, or at least no agreement has been achieved yet?

[Peres] At some time or other Israel and Syria will have to decide to negotiate about the border at the political level. The territorial issues must be decided together with the security issues. However, we must realize that territory has lost its classical importance for the countries' security and welfare. Today and, in particular, in the future the matter is not so much borders but markets and trade, resources, technology, and economic capacity: The point is competition and no longer dominance. Even from the military point of view, no country can rely on its borders any longer, because missiles cross borders and territories. Borders no longer protect us and cannot be defended as they were in the past: Markets are more important than borders. If Syria insists on the state of war, it will lose its future.

[Ruehl] What are the prospects with the PLO?

[Peres] Gaza will be a success. A dynamic reconstruction has started there, women are throwing away their veils and are going swimming in the sea. This was unthinkable until recently. A political movement, "Peace Now!," which has about 2,000 members, is making propaganda for peaceful coexistence with Israel and the Jews. Israel has demonstrated that it keeps its promises and we will continue to do so, despite some delays and many difficulties.

[Ruehl] Can 'Arafat keep the peace process in motion and consolidate his decision?

[Peres] 'Arafat recently told me: "Democracy is a tiring business." He has his problems and his program. But he is the first Palestinian in this century who has found the way from terrorism to dialogue. Israel needs security and this is the point now.

[Ruehl] ...and Jerusalem, as it was agreed on in Washington in 1993?

[Peres] Jerusalem is not an issue for negotiations for Israel. We will not let Jerusalem be divided, we will not turn it into a second Berlin. Religion is another matter, free access to the holy places will be guaranteed. Furthermore, Jerusalem has never been an Arab capital. The Palestinians have no legal or historical claim to Jerusalem.

[Ruehl] Israel continues building Jewish houses there and maintains the Jewish settlements in the autonomous territory. What does this mean for the further negotiations?

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[Peres] If the current relations between the Arabs and the Jews continued, there really would be no peace. However, if they change toward peaceful coexistence, then the Jewish settlements on Palestine's Arab territory will no longer be any problem. One cannot have war and peace at the same time.

[Ruehl] Do you see free elections in the autonomous territory, and can 'Arafat hold his own in them?

[Peres] Probably no one will run against him for the presidency and the leadership of the Autonomy Council. But the result of the election depends on the economic development. We intend, together with Jordan, to build 100,000 apartments for young families. This is a peace measure, because social stability and economic development are decisive.

[Ruehl] Do the other Arab countries help?

[Peres] Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco support the peace politically, and Jordan cooperates with us. The other Arab countries are restrained. We do not expect much of them. The words may change, but the policy remains the old one. However, the Arabs have to decide whether they want to become part of the 21st century or whether they want to fall behind further, also behind the Asian countries, which are modernizing themselves. If they do not make progress, they will become victims of radical Islamism. Israel can help in modernizing the Middle East, but it cannot solve the problems of the Arab countries.

[Ruehl] How are Israel's relations with Germany developing?

[Peres] Basically, the relations are staying on course. We must not forget either the past or the future. The past is still a burning scar, which must be treated carefully and wisely. However, we cannot cover the future in tears, because we must work for the future. The Germans understand that their future lies in Europe. As long as this is so, everything is okay. Adenauer tried to bring Germany closer to the West, Brandt tried to supplement this in the East, Kohl is trying both. However, there is always a Jewish element in any German policy. This is unavoidable and this is not caused by Israel's size or strength but by the size of the moral and political challenge for Germany. A historical relationship like this one is based on the past, which cannot be changed, and points into the future, which must be shaped.

Beilin Not Optimistic About Syrian Negotitations

TA1707050995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Friedman] Dr. Beilin, the decision to hold negotiations on the security arrangements before discussing the final border line between us and Syria was made on the basis of the illusion that the territorial hurdle can be bypassed and significant progress can be made in security negotiations. Alas, the Syrians shatter every illusion of ours, telling us: Dear friends, nothing can be bypassed in negotiations with us.

[Beilin] This was not our premise when we started discussing the security issues. We said that if we cannot reach agreement on the security issues, we will certainly find it hard to reach agreement on other, more important, issues on our agenda. We, therefore, wanted to examine whether we could attain some sort of agreement on the security issues, but so far we have not. As a result, we cannot move to another stage.

Regrettably, I do not share the optimism U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed last night. I hope it is justified, but we have a problem with the Syrians which I do not want to downplay. Several months ago, I said that I am not certain that President al-Asad — unlike King Husayn or Yasir 'Arafat — made a strategic decision to make peace with us and pay the price for it. I admit that even today, after all that has happened, I am not at all certain he has.

[Dan] Are you saying that at this stage all is lost?

[Beilin] I believe that what the secretary of state calls technicalities — such as whether an ambassador talks to an officer or the other way around — is not all that technical. We wanted to follow the chief of staff talks with talks between officers. For some reason, this is not happening. Another offer was made, and we need to consider whether there is a point in accepting it. Also, there is a question whether the continuation of negotiations between ambassadors at the current tempo could bring peace in the few months that we have until the end of this year, which is more or less the end of the window of opportunity. I believe this tempo will not yield peace. [passage omitted]

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Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses PLO, Syria

BR1307152995 Brussels LE SOIR in French 13 Jul 95 p 2

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, by Baudouin Loos; place and date not given: "Yosi Beilin — On the State of Advancement of Israeli-Arab Negotiations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Loos] What is your personal view of the final status of the territories?

[Beilin] Ideally, at the end of the occupation, around 1999, the greater part of the West Bank and Gaza will be under Arab sovereignty and at the same time we will have guaranteed Israel's security. Will it be a state, a confederation with Jordan (which I prefer personally)? That is important but secondary. You know I would like to go on directly to these final negotiations, but my point of view has not been accepted by the government. The essential thing for me, as a Jew and Israeli, is to no longer control 2 million Palestinians.

[Loos] What do you think of the alarming reports about human rights in Gaza?

[Beilin] It is a difficult question from a philosophical and political point of view, which is counted in my desire to go on to the final status as quickly as possible. I do not feel in a position to decide for the Palestinians their future regime.

But if I had to choose between my own national security and criticism of the Palestinian regime for human rights, I would take the first option, even if that is a cruel attitude. We cannot afford the luxury of affronting our immediate neighbors on these questions, when that could lead to the failure of everything. Like affronting the colonists, it is the wrong battle to fight now.

"I Do not Understand the Syrians!"

[Loos] As for Syria, what is happening with these mysterious negotiations?

[Beilin] I am not sure that we are really negotiating with the Syrians! We have really strange relations. The Syrians remain an enigma for me, I do not understand them. I had met many Palestinians and Jordanians before the agreements with them: I have practically never seen Syrians! Without informal relations, it becomes almost impossible to advance. And they are continuing to insist on not having any high level political contact. I wonder whether President al-Asad has taken the strategic decision to make peace with us. With the 1996 elections, we no longer have much time, everything must be unblocked this year.

Of course there are positive signs, favorable developments between the chiefs of staff for example, but I am scarcely optimistic because I think they fear peace and its price, normalization with Israel. Apparently for them, it is difficult, psychologically and symbolically, to make a clean sweep of hatred of Israel, the common denominator of Syrian society. It is always very difficult to lose one's enemy.

[Loos] Al-Asad is said to be worried about the referendum announced in Israel before any withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

[Beilin] If I were him, on the contrary, I would leap at the opportunity. I would sign the best possible arrangement in the interests of my country, then I would observe the referendum in Israel. In the event of an Israeli "no," it would be a treasure for him, to show the entire world — and especially the Americans — just who is refusing peace.

In fact the referendum is a risk we are taking, not him. And we will do it because we believe that if we conclude this chapter of the war between the two countries, there will be a majority to support it.

Sources Express Optimism on Palestinian Talks

TA1607055095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talks are to resume today between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Zikhron Ya'aqov. The two sides are attempting to wrap up an agreement by the July 25 target date. Four separate committees are to discuss various aspects, including the Israeli army redeployment and security arrangements, legal issues, the proposed elections, and the transfer of power to the Palestinian Authority. The committees will also be charged with drawing up maps and the agreement.

On Friday, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators set an agenda for the talks. The Palestinian delegation returned to Gaza for consultations with Yasir 'Arafat.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 16 July adds: "In anticipation of the opening of the talks with Palestinians at Zikhron Ya'aqov, Israeli political sources say there are good chances for completing the negotiations within 10 days, although several difficulties remain unsolved."]

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Rabin Holds Meeting on Security for Rachel's Tomb

TA1607082095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is demanding special security arrangements for Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem and for the roads leading to it in the framework of the agreement being worked out with the Palestinians.

The prime minister convened a special meeting this morning on security arrangements and access to Rachel's Tomb. It was decided to insist that security be jointly shared by Israel and the Palestinians.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes this constitutes a change in Israel's position, because so far it was said the Palestinians will bear full responsibility on the access roads leading to the site.

Deputy Minister Gur Found Dead; Suicide Possible

TA1607055395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Knesset Member Mordekhay Gur, deputy defense minister and a former chief of staff and minister, died this morning in Tel Aviv. Gur was 65 years old at his death. Several years ago he suffered from cancer, but after surgery he resumed his normal activities.

This morning his family members found him in the garden of his house with his revolver lying nearby. A doctor was called to the scene and pronounced hom dead. [passage omitted]

Katz-'Oz To Replace Gur in Knesset

TA1607074395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Avraham Katz-'Oz will replace Mordekhay Gur in the Knesset. Katz-'Oz is a former agriculture minister and veteran Knesset member. He has recently headed the Israeli delegation to the water negotiations with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Rabin Asks Gen. Levin To 'Shut Up' on Hizballah

TA1607094095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jul 95 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a conversation they held last weekend, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin ordered Major General 'Amiram Levin to "tone down his reactions and remarks against Hizballah." It has been learned that the prime minister expressed his displeasure with remarks by Levin, who said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] "will not hold back in view of the events in south Lebanon." Gen. Levin made several remarks on this issue last week. [passage omitted]

Government sources told HA'ARETZ that the prime minister and defense minister "did not like the general's statements, to say the least, and this is why Rabin talked to him." According to a government source, Rabin told Levin to "simply shut up, make no remarks, and not make the situation even worse with his words." According to the sources, the meeting was also attended by Maj. Gen. Dani Yatom, Rabin's military secretary.

Military sources have said that Levin is angry with the media for allegedly citing him. Levin also denied that he had mentioned a possible military retaliation against Hizballah in a meeting with the heads of the northern communities or in closed forums.

It is worth noting that this is not the first time the prime minister has been displeased by Gen. Levin's remarks. [passage omitted]

NRP, Moledet Withdraw No-Confidence Motion

TA1707075795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] and Moledet have withdrawn from the Knesset's agenda two motions of no confidence in the government which were scheduled to be voted on today.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the decision came in view of the mourning over the death of Mordekhay Gur and the prime minister's willingness to reach an arrangement on orderly construction on Hazayit Hill on the outskirts of Efrat.

Clinton's 'Brave' Move on Vietnam Ties Lauded

TA1407113795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Footnote for Courage"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The knee-jerk domestic opposition to President Bill Clinton's restoration of diplomatic ties with Vietnam clearly has more to do with home-front politics than with international relations. Once again, Clinton is being denied credit for a brave and historic move because of the petty politics of a still-distant presidential election.

The fact that the Republican opposition to diplomatic ties with Vietnam is being led by the party's presidential candidates makes the protests utterly transparent — it is time to beat the patriotic drum before the veterans' associations and score cheap points off the "draft-dodger" commander-in-chief. The stand taken on the

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Vietnam war by a young liberal at the time is irrelevant when he ends up as an elected president drafting foreign policy. There are perfectly valid reasons for opposing the normalization, but to score cheap points off the president is not one of them.

Vietnam is still one of the few anachronistic communist dictatorships left, but U.S. policy on these irredentist dinosaurs is confused, to say the least. If American policy was a consistent one of isolating all communist states — fine. Other countries might disagree with it, but at least everyone's stand would be clear.

Yet puny Cuba remains anathema to Washington while China is a most-favored-nation trading partner. The most obnoxious communist state, North Korea, is being coaxed into dialogue and being bought state-of-the-art nuclear reactors to encourage it to bend a little. Oddly enough, North Korea has never been subjected to the ferocious pressure to find missing American war casualties that has been central to blocking normalization with Vietnam.

Clinton's opponents on the Vietnam policy may be noisy and nasty, yet they are curiously out of step with the business community, which would seem to be a more important Republican constituency than veterans' societies. Even more oddly, Clinton could never have carried off the Vietnam decision without an active Republican ally of the highest stature — Sen. John McCain, who was tortured as a prisoner of war in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" camp and is a passionate advocate of burying the war once and for all by establishing relations with Vietnam.

U.S. businessmen, brushing aside Republican-fanned anger over an estimated 400 still unaccounted-for war dead, are clearly delighted by the renewed ties. The Coalition for U.S.-Vietnam Trade, made up of 112 major corporations, praised Clinton loudly and urged rapid expansion of trade with this new Asian partner, whose people are reportedly hungry for all things American.

Trade and jobs at home and further relaxations by the regime in Hanoi may eventually help Clinton garner the credit he deserves. Twenty years after this tragic war, it is definitely time to explore some sort of healing process. Clinton well deserves his footnote in history for this courageous step, taken without regard to the personal political risk involved.

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Freed Americans Cross Into Country From Iraq

JN1707112695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two Americans freed from Iraqi prison have crossed into Jordan. The White House said it was delighted that the two have been allowed to depart Iraq.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn yesterday pardoned the two after a direct plea from President Bill Clinton and the U.S. Congress delivered to Baghdad by visiting U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson.

Both men were arrested inside Iraq last March while entering illegally from Kuwait.

King Husayn Discusses Bosnia With World Leaders

French President Chirac

JN1507061795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn last night telephoned French President Jaques Chirac. They exchanged views on the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During the phone conversation, his majesty voiced Jordan's appreciation of, and support for the courageous principled French position which demands the world community to fulfill its duty toward developments in Bosnia and to take immediate measures to stop the massacres and inhuman, horrendous acts against the Bosnian Muslims, especially in the areas under the control and protection of the UN troops which the Serb forces have began to seize, one area after the other, from the UN troops. His majesty stressed that these areas must return to their owners.

His majesty stressed that a clear and decisive stand must be taken to face these practices, which are being carried out against the Muslims in Bosnia as part of the racial cleansing policy, which, by all standards, is considered one of the ugliest crimes against humanitarian values, the UN charters, human rights, and the world conscience.

During his telephone conversation with President Chirac, the king stated the Jordanian clear principled position on this situation in Bosnia; that Jordan will withdraw its troops acting within the UN troops in former Yugoslavia if these troops prove their failure to fulfill their duty and if no measures are taken to put an end to this tragedy by activating the role of the United Nations and its troops working in that part of the world.

Moroccan King Hassan II

JN1507174195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn contacted his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco by telephone this evening. They exchanged views on the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the inhuman aggression against Bosnian Muslims.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need to put an end to this tragedy and voiced Jordan's readiness to exert every effort to save the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and end the suffering, killing, and displacement of the Muslim people there through regional, Islamic, and international organizations and bodies.

During the contact, they also discussed developments in the international arena, inter-Arab relations, and ways to promote joint Arab action, as well as relations between the two fraternal countries. They also stressed the need to continue consultations for the benefit of the two countries and the causes of the nation.

UNSC Envoys

JN1507153895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today the ambassadors of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. During the meeting, his majesty expressed Jordan's clear, principled stand and stressed the need to stop the ugly massacres being committed against Bosnian civilians.

His majesty pointed out that Serb aggressions on Bosnian citizens, particularly those living in areas that have been placed under the control and protection of the UN forces, are going on because the international community is reacting weakly to that tragic situation and because it sometimes shows indifference to human rights violations—rights which have been recognized by the UN Charters.

His majesty said that these inhuman practices and the ugly massacres are being committed at a time when we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, which was established to preserve man's rights, his dignity, his freedom, and his right to a safe and stable life.

These practices, his majesty noted, remind us of the inhuman practices that occurred against man before the establishment of that body, stressing the need to activate the role of the numerous UN institutions in order to

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achieve the goals for which it was established. The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Mawran al-Qasim.

Government To Provide Aid to Bosnian Muslims

JN1407195795 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 14 Jul 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan condemned the Bosnian Serb aggression against the Bosnian Muslims and reaffirmed its solidarity with the Muslim population.

A Jordanian spokesman said the Jordanian Government has been deeply concerned at the developments in Bosnia and the suffering of the Muslims as a result of Serb aggression. The spokesman said that upon instructions of the king, Jordan will provide humanitarian assistance to the Bosnian Muslims. The spokesman said Jordan will also continue its contacts with Islamic and friendly countries towards implementing the international legitimacy and forcing the Serbs to withdraw their forces from the areas they have recently stormed.

Al-Kabariti States Goals of Riyadh Visit

JN1507190095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met in Riyadh today with His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Upon arriving in Riyadh this afternoon, al-Kabariti was received by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who announced that al-Kabariti's visit would give the chance to review all issues pertaining to bilateral relations and the Arab situation.

For his part, al-Kabariti announced that it was time to end the abnormal situation, which has been produced by abnormal events, in order to resume joint action.

Before departing, al-Kabariti made the following statement to our correspondent Muhammad al-Majali:

[Begin al-Kabariti recording] I am going to pay the visit at the generous invitation of His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I hope that the visit will be a good start and that the talks with his highness will be profound and comprehensive and will cover all aspects of bilateral relations and some regional issues. We also hope that these talks will lay down the groundwork for a better future relations based on confidence and understanding.

I believe that past Saudi-Jordanian relations have been full of understanding and cooperation and have always been distinguished and special on all levels, including the leaders of both countries and all official and popular levels. The future is promising and open, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always been a source of prosperity and aid. For its part, Jordan has always been a source of prosperity and assistance. There are strategic issues and joint interests. Good intentions will produces results matching aspirations, and our aspirations are very large. Thank you. [end recording]

Press Statement Issued on Talks

JN1607165395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has described his talks with officials in Saudi Arabia as deep, frank, and objective. This came in a press statement al-Kabariti made upon his return to Amman today after a visit to Saudi Arabia which lasted two days. During the visit, al-Kabariti held talks with His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; and His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, on bilateral relations and means to reinforce them to serve the interest of the two peoples. In his statement, al-Kabariti said:

[Begin al-Kabariti recording] The talks were deep, frank, and objective. There was a true desire and a joint willpower to get out of the chill and stalemate, continue dialogue, reinforce cooperation, and increase meetings. I held a lengthy meeting with His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. I also held two rounds with His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. Praise be to God, the talks were successful. We agreed to remove all causes of chillness, reinforce contacts, continue dialogue, and appoint a Saudi ambassador to the Royal Hashemite Court. We also agreed to work in compliance with previous agreements, especially in terms of exporting agricultural and animal products from Jordan to Saudi Arabia under the condition that these products should have a certificate confirming that they are free of contamination and disease. Moreover, we agreed to continue contacts and meetings. I believe that the trip was successful. Thank you. [end recording]

On his part, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, described his talks with al-Kabariti as fruitful and useful. In a statement after concluding his talks with al-Kabariti in Riyadh today, he said that Saudi Arabia will soon appoint Saudi ambassador to Jordan. He noted that the two countries will remove all obstacles facing their bilateral relations.

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Daily Hails Promotion of Ties

JN1607095095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Jul 95 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "On the Road to Prosperity and Solidarity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the substance, optimism, and faith of people who are loyal to their nation and who firmly adhere to their principles, we are now looking forward to a new era of relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia—an era which will be launched by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti's visit to Saudi Arabia. We beseech God to render the visit successful for the benefit of the two fraternal countries and the entire Arab nation.

We are looking forward to the beginning of one stage and the end of another in inter-Arab relations, which we have always wanted to be based on solidarity and joint action to safeguard the nation's freedom, independence, and will, and to protect our nation from harm and blunders. We are looking forward to an era, which can build an effective mechanism to reinforce the foundations of solidarity. We are also seeking to put an end to an era, which would not have left its black marks on Arab history had it been kept within the pan-Arab framework and tackled through the concepts of joint Arab action and pan-Arab interests.

We would not be exaggerating if we assert that the Jordanian-Saudi relations and ties between the Hashemite and Saudi leaders have always dealt with the nation's causes, united ranks, and promoted the interests and aspirations of the Arab nation. The events that impaired relations and the entire Arab situation have not only harmed Jordan and Saudi Arabia, but also the whole Arab nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf. So, these events and their results will be eliminated in light of the new chapter that will open today.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has stressed the Saudi leaders' desire to put an end to the negative aspects in relations between Amman and Riyadh as part of efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere. We appreciate the Saudi leaders' step. The Jordanian response to it does not deviate from the framework of pan-Arab constants drawn up by His Majesty King Husayn and adopted by our country and our people as an Arab means to overcome the past circumstances and push Arab relations toward more fruitful cooperation and closer solidarity, which can meet the ambitions of our Arab masses and translate their aspirations for solidarity and unity into tangible steps on the ground.

The current stage and its decisive turning points in the Arab region, as well as international moves based on strong blocs, should simply prompt the Arabs to rise to the level of this stage and to be aware of its dimensions. They should also mobilize the nation's energies and efforts so that the Arabs can preserve the pillars of their cultural entity and their higher interests in the face of others' designs. In light of this, the Jordanian-Saudi move will constitute a great achievement among the brothers on this path.

We are looking forward to the new chapter to be opened today between Amman and Riyadh while we are more confident of our principles, pan-Arab principles, and our policy to build the bases of joint Arab action, which cannot be shaken by challenges and events. We meet the brothers in faith, and say that the road is one, the goal is one, and the destiny is one.

Bin-Shakir, Egyptian Minister Discuss Cooperation

JN1607123195 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has held talks with Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Yusuf Ghali. The prime minister underlined the importance of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in all fields. He said the two countries should coordinate their stands and exchange views on economic issues of mutual concern. The prime minister noted that out of their distinguished economic relationship, Amman and Cairo need to double their effort to realize their joint goals.

On his part, Mr. Ghali said the bilateral relations as well as regional and international economic developments were reviewed during the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib.

King Congratulates Saddam on National Day

JN1707064995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jul 95 pp 1, 27

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, PETRA—His Majesty King Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the 27th anniversary of the national day of the Republic of Iraq.

Following is the text of the cable: Your Excellency Brother President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, president of the Republic of Iraq-Baghdad.

Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

On the occasion of the fraternal Iraqi people's celebrations of the 27th anniversary of the national day of the sisterly Republic of Iraq, I am pleased to send to your excellency, in my name and on behalf of the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its government,

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warmest heartfelt congratulations and sincerest fraternal sentiments accompanied by prayers to Almighty God to return this blessed national occasion while your excellency enjoys continued good health and the fraternal Iraqi people enjoy prosperity and blessings.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn

More on Iraq's Hasan Visit, Pipeline Proposal

JN1507102695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A new seriousness has been added to a Jordanian-Iraqi proposal to build a pipeline to bring Iraqi crude to Jordan and replace the present cumbersome overland trucking operations, according to informed sources.

They said the proposal to build the 600 Kilometre pipeline, which will run from al-Haditha in Iraq to the Jordanian Petroleum, Refinery Company in al-Zarqa', was one of the main subjects discussed here during the visit last week of a senior Iraqi minister.

Husayn Kamil [Hasan], the Iraqi minister of industry, held talks with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali 'Abd-al-Raghib during the visit.

The talks also dealt with Jordanian-Iraqi industrial co-operation and means through which Jordanian industrialists could help their Iraqi counterparts.

The Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said the discussions dealt with "bilateral relations, especially in the economic and trade fields, as well as Arab economic integration and joint Arab industries and the need to revitalise this sector."

Mr. Kamil told Jordan Television that said Jordan and Iraq were seeking to increase industrial cooperation. He said the discussions also covered the pipeline project.

"The pipeline proposal was reviewed closely and there is a new focus on realising the proposal since the overland trucking of oil from Iraq is getting too expensive and cumbersome," said a source.

According to this source and others, Jordan is hoping to launch a serious feasibility study on the project soon, and is expecting the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held here in October to give a clearer shape to the project.

The Amman Chamber of Industry and the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Industry have signed an agreement that calls for increased industrial cooperation through exchange of expertise and consultations.

The full potential of the agreement, according to Amman Chamber of Industry officials, cannot be realised until the international sanctions against Iraq are removed.

In the meantime, the two sides can cooperate in technical matters, the officials said.

The initial focus would be on how Jordanian industries could advise Iraqis to convert some of their military industries to civilians purposes.

Large and expensive equipment and machinery at military plants are now idle in Iraq following the limitations imposed on the country military weapons programme in line with the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

Iraq is seeking Jordanian expertise on using some of those equipment for civilian purposes on a commercial basis.

The oil pipeline project is one of the priority proposals of Jordan, which continues to receive about 70,000 barrels of oil daily from Iraq—50,000 barrels of crude and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil— under an exemption granted by the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee.

The proposed pipeline will have a capacity to pump 250,000 barrels per day, but the actual quantity is pumped in the initial steps is expected to be limited to 100,000 barrels.

Preliminary studies indicate that, in order to meet rising demands for oil in Jordan, work on the 122-centimetre diameter pipeline should start in 1996 and be complete by 1998.

"Our objective is to cover the needs of Jordan—namely 250,000 barrels of oil" per day by the year 2000, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah told the JORDAN TIMES in an April interview.

He said there was no plan to pump Iraqi oil through the pipeline for export.

The preliminary studies, which envisaged two phases of the project—the 600-kilometre section from al-Haditha to al-Zarqa and a 350-Kilometre section from al-Zarqa' to al-'Aqabah—estimated the total cost at about $1.4 billion.

The estimated cost of the first phase was not immediately available.

The al-Zarqa-al-'Aqabah section of the project will depend on the realisation of a project to build a refinery at al-'Aqabah.

At present, Jordan spends about JD [dinars] 40 million a year for trucking Iraqi oil to al-Zarqa.

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Iraq levies international prices for the oil but offers a $1 discount because it is trucked overland, according to Mr. Darwazah, who in April renewed, signed a Jordanian-Iraqi agreement for the supply of oil.

Part of the oil comes in settlement of pre-Gulf war crisis Iraqi debts to Jordan. Amman settles the other part with food and medicine exports to Iraq.

'Informed Sources' Cited on Iraq Sanctions

JN1707125595 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 17 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] In parallel with the steady improvement in Jordanian-Saudi ties and as part of its "dual openness" policy, the government, upon higher directives, has begun efforts to reestablish the country's political and economic relationship with Iraq.

Informed sources have told AL-MAJD that the next few weeks will see a public Jordanian move toward Iraq in the direction of easing the sanctions and promoting bilateral trade and political coordination.

These sources asserted that during their Paris meeting two weeks ago, King Husayn and Chirac conducted a thorough review of the situation in Iraq. The talks produced a willingness on the part of both France and Jordan to contribute toward an openness to Iraq and alleviating its suffering.

The sources added that Jordan began contacts with Egypt toward that end, and that its efforts were met with a favorable Egyptian response.

AL-MAJD learned that the talks held between Iraqi Minister Husayn Kamil and Jordanian officials in Amman last week produced several agreements, and opened the door once again for further bilateral cooperation and coordination, particularly over the construction of an Iraqi oil pipeline to Jordan after the United States dropped its previous reservations over this project, which has been the focus of discussions for the past three years.

The owners of the tanker trucks transporting Iraqi oil have opposed this plan and protested against it, because it will kill the livelihood of thousands of Jordanians and Iraqis who work in this field, as they put it. Nonetheless, AL-MAJD's sources revealed that awarding the contract of constructing this pipeline to the South Korean corporation Hambo [name as published] is only a matter of time, because the construction of this pipeline is perceived to promote Jordan's public interest as well as the special interests of the influential agents of the South Korean firm. At this point, we will refrain from divulging details.

Australian Foreign Minister Meets Prince, Departs

JN1507095195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—Australia's role in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process and participation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit were the key themes for discussions between Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and Jordanian leaders here Friday.

Mr. Evans, who arrived here Thursday and left to Syria and Lebanon on Friday, was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir in separate meetings. He also held talks with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

The Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said the Crown Prince and Mr. Evans reviewed bilateral relations and means to improve them.

The Crown Prince also discussed the MENA summit and means to ensuring the success of the conference, which is expected to be attended by government leaders and a large number of international businessmen and economists.

PETRA quoted Mr. Evans as reaffirming that his country would participate actively in the summit and praising Jordan's achievements and the Kingdom's key role in the Middle East and efforts to arrive at a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Prince Receives Acquitted Oklahoma Bombing Suspect

JN1507094295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (Petra)—His Royal Highness Prince Hasan Thursday received at the Royal Court Ibrahim 'Abdallah Hasan, a Jordanian citizen, who was recently acquitted by U.S. courts, of charges that he was responsible for the blowing up of the Federal building in Oklahoma early this year.

Mr. Hasan, who lives in the United States, voiced appreciation to Prince Hasan for receiving him and for the interest he showed in his case.

Mr. Hasan, who arrived recently from the U.S., praised Prince Hasan's efforts to amend the image of Islam in the West, defend the interests of Muslims, and to spread Islam's message of tolerance, moral values and principles in the international fora.

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Prince Hasan was briefed by Mr. Hasan on the cruel treatment he was subjected to when held as a suspect after the April Oklahoma bombing which killed 164 people. He spoke about his suffering and that of his family as a result of the inhumane treatment they received at the hands of U.S. officials.

U.S. authorities arrested Mr. Hasan upon receiving information from Americans who said that they saw some people with Middle Eastern features in the area where the explosion took place.

Mr. Hasan, however, said several U.S. officials officially apologised to him after he was found innocent and cleared from the charges labelled against him.

Those who apologised officially were the Oklahoma governor and the Oklahoma representative at the U.S. Senate, he said.

Mr. Hasan thanked the Jordanian Government for its interest in him and for following up on his case. He called upon the international community to learn from this experience and to cease accusations against Arabs and Muslims in the events of terrorist attacks.

Islam does not allow the killing of innocent people, he said.

Mr. Hasan was born in the Israeli-Occupied West Bank town of Jenin in 1963. He was in Chicago airport right after the blast where he was first questioned and then released. His Rome-bound luggage arrived without him, where it drew the attention of Italian airport authorities for containing material that 'could be used to make explosives'. Mr. Hasan was then detained by British officials in London and sent back to the U.S. for questioning.

Columnist: Alienating IAF Not in Best Interest

JN1507122295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 95 p 6

["Jordanian Perspective" by Dr. Musa al-Kilani: "Democracy Digging Deeper Roots"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The municipal elections that Jordan held last week were another landmark in the democratisation and political pluralism in the Kingdom. Granted there were a few nuances, but in general the conduct of the elections and the way the government went around organised them showed that Jordan is a fast learner and a bright student of political evolution.

It was indeed another feather in the cap of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, who also oversaw the Kingdom's first general elections in 1989 after a hiatus of more than three decades.

It is highly noteworthy that it was mostly apolitical candidates who won the majority of seats in the municipal elections, and it would be naive to characterise them as anything but ordinary Jordanians from the heart of the Kingdom who will, hopefully, strive to serve their communities.

At least six political parties ran publicly announced candidates while other parties chose to keep the identities of their nominees secret. The final results, however, showed that candidates of political parties had won only a negligible share of the seats. This indicates that Jordanians are shying away from embracing political parties as the main vehicle in their mainstream life regardless of their political ideologies. This is not surprising also, because less than two per cent of the electorate are registered members of political parties although the new Political Parties Law was enacted almost three years ago.

It was regrettable that the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the best organised political party in Jordan, chose to withdraw from the municipal races in its strongholds of al-Zarqa' and al-Rusayfah. An IAF victory in those two municipalities would not have posed a challenge for anyone. If anything, the track record of the previous IAF-dominated council in al-Zarqa' stands far above others in Jordan in terms of services to the community. It was under this council that al-Zarqa' had its first university, three community colleges, 12 schools and dozens of Zakat committees which served the poor among al-Zarqa' residents. Furthermore, it was under the IAF-led council that al-Zarqa' Municipality settled its public debts. In fact, the al-Zarqa' council under the IAF set a model for most other municipalities in Jordan. For sure, we can expect to see a similar record in Madaba and al-Karak where the IAF won this time around.

An additional 10 IAF members joining the 3,000-plus municipal officials throughout the Kingdom would not have upset the overall balance in local administrative powers.

The arrest of drivers who were apparently taking IAF voters to polling centres on charges of silly traffic violations in al-Zarqa' was rather uncalled for. Such actions obviously alienated the IAF, which, already unhappy with what it saw as other moves aimed at undermining its chances in the elections, registered a strong protest by boycotting Wednesday's session of the Lower House of Parliament.

Alienating the well organised political party in the Kingdom, regardless of its beliefs and ideology, does not go well with the democratisation process. The IAF is very much part and parcel of our political life. IAF leaders

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and supporters are very much from among us, and there is no reason for them to feel alienated from mainstream life. Such alienation would only mar prospects for a harmonious relationship between political parties and the regime.

That was perhaps the only blemish in the nationwide municipal elections apart from what was unmistakably voter apathy. On the second count, the government did its best to attract voters to the polling booths, but it cannot do anything beyond reminding voters of their duty towards themselves and towards the community that they belong to. It is here that one would have expected the political parties to play a key and influential role by convincing the voters to leave their homes and spend a couple of hours on a public holiday to vote for who could serve their community best.

Effectively, the low turnout on Tuesday and Wednesday meant that Jordanians need more orientation on their rights and responsibilities as well as a conviction that it is largely up to them to decide the level and quality of services for their communities because they have the power to elect the candidates they feel are best suited to serve them. Compiaining that previous councils did not serve the communities well is not an answer or justification for staying away from the elections. If anything, such a complaint should be much more the key reason for the voters to seek to rectify the situation.

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Al-Hariri's Damascus Meeting With al-Asad Reported

NC1607163795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut at 1700 today from a two-day visit to Damascus. He met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad there for three hours and discussed with him developments in the peace process and bilateral issues. He also met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and a number of ranking officials.

Upon his return to Beirut, Prime Minister al-Hariri visited B'abda Palace where he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and reviewed with him the results of his visit to the Syrian capital. National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul joined the al-Hirawi and al-Hariri meeting.

Circles close to Prime Minister al-Hariri said that the extensive talks the prime minister held yesterday and this morning with Mr. Khaddam and with a number of Syrian officials addressed various issues of mutual interest. In particular, they addressed new developments in the peace process in light of Israel's thwarting of the recent mission by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, as well as the European role in general, with emphasis on the French role in advancing the peace process in light of al-Hariri's upcoming visit to the French capital. It has been learned that in Paris, Prime Minister al-Hariri will encourage greater French and European roles in the peace talks, which are being hampered by Israel.

Russian Envoy Meets al-Hirawi, Comments on Talks

NC1507130395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian presidential envoy and deputy foreign minister, met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi today. The Russian official said that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and issues pertaining to Russian policy toward the Middle East peace process.

In his remarks after the meeting, Posuvalyuk pointed out that Russia is in constant contact with the U.S. and other sides. He mentioned in this regard Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's visit to Russia. He added: We are aware of the current developments in the peace process and we are trying in the best way possible to reactivate matters on the peace tracks and to create a new political and psychological atmosphere.

Responding to a question on whether a peace agreement between Syria and Israel is imminent, the Russian envoy expressed optimism in this regard. However, he declined to specify a deadline for this agreement. He noted that his optimism stems from the principles over which the parties concerned agreed to proceed with the peace process.

The Russian official visited the Foreign Ministry building this morning and met with Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan. Posuvalyuk stressed that the talks revolved around the peace process and the situation in the region. He said: We in Moscow always attach importance to any progress on the peace tracks, including the Lebanese-Israeli track. He said that several steps have been taken to reactivate matters on this track. We managed to take these steps in view of our contacts and ties with the Israeli side and the U.S. cosponsor, the Russian official added. He said that he will hold talks in Syria tomorrow.

For his part, Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan said: We held a round of talks on the current developments on the Lebanese and Russian arenas, particularly those pertaining to the peace process.

Foreign Minister Buwayz Views Detainees Issue

NC1407141695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The committee that supports and follows the situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails has called for holding a day of solidarity with the detainees. The announcement was celebrated in the press room of the Information Ministry. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, the Information Ministry director, General Muhammad 'Ubayd, and many foreign correspondents also attended the ceremony. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz addressed the gathering. He noted that since the peace talks began, the detainees issue has been permanently on the agenda of the Lebanese negotiating delegation. He said this basic issue has been raised internationally. He pointed out that the basic Lebanese issue is liberating the land and the people, adding that we cannot discuss liberating the land without discussing liberating the people. He said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] The Lebanese issue involves liberating the land and the people. We will not discuss the liberation of the land apart from liberating the people. Since the negotiations for peace began, the POW issue has remained on the agenda of the Lebanese negotiating delegation. It has also been a basic issue that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has raised internationally. Moreover, is has been worked on constantly at all levels. We raised this issue at the United Nations, with the major powers, and with international human rights organizations.

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It hurts us to raise this issue. We realize that the world is apathetic and that public opinion is avoiding its responsibilities. We read reports today citing U.S. President Clinton on the credibility and seriousness of the UN force in Bosnia. Where is the UN credibility regarding south Lebanon, Israeli's daily acts of aggression, and the Lebanese detainees?

When we examine the detainees issue, we maintain that the issue is credible and fair. These people were detained because they resisted the occupation and defended their land. Whatever their guilt is, their issue is legal and just. Are there detainees anywhere else who have not been referred to legal courts, had no clear charges made against them, been subjected to no legal or official interrogation, and, in most cases, not been advised why they were detained?

I would like to mark this day for detainees by addressing those who are interested in these types of issues. World opinion has forced the international community to shoulder its responsibility on human rights issues. [end recording]

Nasrallah on Hizballah's Future, Peace Talks

NC1407195395 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Jul 95 p 7

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah by unidentified "trainee" correspondents from the Moroccan paper AL-'ALAM, the Egyptian papers AL-WAFD and AL-AHRAM, the Tunisian paper AL-SHURUQ, and AL-NAHAR in Bi'r al-'Abd, in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-NAHAR] What are Hizballah's objectives?

[Nasrallah] We have already declared these objectives, which can be summed up in the liberation of the land from the Israeli enemy and the removal of Lebanon from the sphere of arrogant hegemony as represented by the Americans. Strategically, we believe a solution to any society or people's problems on the ideological level lies in establishing an Islamic state and government. But we also believe an Islamic state cannot be established unless it is backed by the public and a broad popular base that not only believes in the Islamic government option, but is ready to make sacrifices and martyr itself for this option. This is a natural condition, not a tactical one, and the Iranian example is the best example.

Hence we are not thinking of establishing an Islamic state in Lebanon by force. We will be at the forefront when the Lebanese citizen becomes convinced of the importance of this option and works to protect it. [passage omitted]

[AL-NAHAR] Some people believe Hizballah is a transient case. What is your view?

[Nasrallah] I can say that there is no movement today that has such deep roots in Lebanon and such massive popular support as our party. We have been through difficult times but these masses you see rallying around us did not abandon us. Some Lebanese forces want to speed up the settlement to get rid of Hizballah and its power, because they regard it as an adversary and political competitor and therefore suppose that the Islamic movement will recede as a result of the peaceful settlement. But the movement will strengthen and grow.

Has the peace between Egypt and Israel weakened the Islamic movement? I challenge (President) Husni Mubarak to hold free parliamentary elections and allow the Islamic parties to participate in them freely. Even inside occupied Palestine, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has strengthened the Islamic movement, because it has become the haven for all those who have been disappointed and who have discovered that what 'Arafat promised them was mere illusion and lies. The Palestinian people today trust the Islamic movement. The same applies to Jordan, and we challenge King Husayn to allow his people to demonstrate. He banned them some time ago from holding a conference to oppose normalization.

[AL-NAHAR] Do you not believe the outcome of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations will be at Hizballah's expense? How do you classify Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Iran within this context?

[Nasrallah] Khaddam's visit was a routine one, because there is a higher Iranian-Syrian committee that meets periodically. The Iranian vice president came to Damascus last year and this time it was the turn of the Syrian vice president to go to Tehran. I do not believe the Tehran meetings have any direct connection with the negotiating process. The issue of the Israeli-Syrian negotiations was undoubtedly on the agenda of the discussions between the Syrian and Iranian brothers. But I do not believe the negotiations were the reason for the visit.

We as a Lebanese Islamic movement have our view of the negotiations with the enemy, not only on a specific track, but on all the tracks. We have our own view of the Israeli entity. Thus when we talk about rejection and acceptance, our principle is clear and we have expressed it through our rejection of the Madrid conference.

Despite this principled stance on the negotiations, we are very eager to see Syria strong and to see everyone supporting it so as to make it stronger still and not let it

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become isolated by the Israelis or Americans. There can be no speculation about the outcome of the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track. Some things are supposed to take place, that is, any withdrawal from Lebanon would be regarded as an achievement that could not have occurred without the Resistance. This is what we aspire to. But we cannot speculate about where the negotiations will lead and at whose expense they will be. We can tell by President Hafiz al-Asad's personality and his unique leadership that he remains loyal to all those who have been loyal to him and has not abandoned them in difficult times.

[AL-NAHAR] U.S. Envoy Robert Pelletreau has spoken of security islands in Beirut's Southern Suburb, basing his remarks on what he heard from Lebanese officials. Rabin says the real war is now taking place in Lebanon. Do you not think these statements imply threats of a "major showdown" with the party and that Rabin's latest remarks against Hizballah suggest an invitation for a tradeoff involving the South Lebanese Army and Hizballah?

[Nasrallah] The Israelis have used the counter shelling of settlements in northern Palestine as an excuse to renege on promises and commitments to their Agent militias, which are the weakest link in the enemy's front. Israel's abandonment of the Lahd army cannot be matched by the suspension of Resistance operations as long as there is occupation of Lebanon. Israel may give up the entire Lahd army for an end to the Resistance operations, but I do not believe Syria would give up the Resistance operations in return for disbanding the Lahd army; this issue is settled.

As for the U.S. and Israeli pressure and talk of a major showdown, part of this is fact and part exaggeration. I believe the Americans are ready for dialogue with Hizballah, if we accept such a dialogue. The Americans were ready for dialogue with Iran throughout past years but Iran was not ready for a dialogue with them, except on the basis of preconditions, which the Americans did not agree to meet. As for talk of a major showdown, I do not underestimate the Israeli enemy's capability, but we in Lebanon and the Arab world have been accustomed to talking about the enemy's power, thus defeating ourselves and ignoring our own capability and our own power. Twelve years ago we heard people saying that we as Lebanese must not give Israel any excuses and that we are forbidden from shelling and from carrying out operations in the liberated areas. They almost told us we could not carry out operations in the occupied areas. Was this not the general culture in Lebanon for years? For the first time in the conflict we are hearing the Israelis saying we must not give the Resistance the excuses and we hear Rabin saying what he did. This is a major point of strength for the Lebanese and for the authority, if it were aware of or concerned about what is happening in the south. But I dare say many are not concerned with what is happening in the south or know of its political and military significance. The Resistance has provided a barrier and a shield to protect the citizens in the south by shelling the settlements.

The July 1993 war was a major showdown, in which the Israelis shelled, destroyed, and evicted people, something that did not happen in the Lebanese war or in the 1982 Israeli incursion. But the Israelis put forward exaggerated conditions, primarily the disbanding of Hizballah, including its political existence. Then morsels of concessions started to appear until seven days later the Israelis ended up with submission to the Resistance's conditions. The "July understanding" means: Do not shell the civilians and we will not shell your settlements. Israel gave in to the conditions of the Resistance, which was fighting alone. Rabin's remarks are hollow threats and empty.

[AL-NAHAR] Will the Resistance operations stop after Israel withdraws from the south? Or is it a resistance against the Israeli usurping of Palestine so it would thus continue its operations?

[Nasrallah] As long as there is occupied Lebanese territory, no one can ask us to stop the resistance. This issue has been settled. And what about after Israel withdraws to the Palestinian-Lebanese borders? This question has been asked by every foreign and Arab correspondent. The Americans and Israelis want to know the answer to this and what our stance will be if peace is reached. We are keeping our answer to this question to ourselves. Let Israel withdraw and then we will give our response.

[AL-NAHAR] Restlessness prevails among the people of the south vis-a-vis the war of attrition on their land between the Resistance and the enemy.

[Nasrallah] Hizballah's performance in the resistance is the best possible in a war arena. Talk of armed men appearing in the villages is false, as is the talk of firing in the villages. Hizballah's action and decision is to keep away from villages as far as possible. When the Israelis and Lahdists are dealt severe blows, they resort to pressuring the population to pressure Hizballah. There are two ways of inciting the population to do this, but this pressure has eased since the July understanding [between Israel and Hizballah in July 1993]. Levin [the commander of the Israeli northern front] tried to act in a different way but we confronted him in another way until he gave up. There is a way to incite the population through people with suspicious relations who seek to instigate the population against

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the Resistance, exploiting the difficult circumstances of the people there. Sometimes, but this is uncommon, the circumstances of the confrontation force the Resistance to open fire from nearby houses. When you are far from the arena it is easy to offer ideas and say what is allowed and what is not. Life in a battle zone means the Resistance is sometimes forced not to comply with restrictions and controls. Some people exaggerate things. We do not want to enter into an argument with speaker Nabih Birri or anyone else. If anyone has advice about the Resistance performance, we are here and our doors are open to listen to anyone. It is not useful to exaggerate things, particularly under the circumstances.

[AL-NAHAR] On what basis did Hizballah say peace between Syria and Israel will not see the light?

[Nasrallah] This is not an accurate statement. IRNA interviewed me and I spoke to the Iranian News Agency in Arabic. The interview was translated into Persian and from Persian into French and then into Arabic and was published according to the last translation. It is not accurate to say that peace between Israel and Syria will not see the light. But I can say there are real complications and the picture is still unclear. Reports of a positive atmosphere in the talks are meant to enhance the goals of the forthcoming U.S. and Israeli elections. We must wait for the results of the meeting between the two chiefs of staff and the progress of the negotiations in the next few months to see if such an agreement will see the light or if things will be postponed until after the U.S. elections.

[AL-NAHAR] Why did the negotiations on the Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails stop?

[Nasrallah] The negotiations have not stopped but the process is slow because they are governed by conditions and counter conditions regarding the release of the detainees. This issue does not represent pressure on us, even if they arrest hundreds. We suffer for our detained brothers but this suffering will not affect our decisionmaking, will, or performance.

Al-Din: Resistance Halt Contingent on Withdrawal

NC1607134395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jul 95

[Speech by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Higher Islamic Shiite Council chairman, in al-Bisariyah on 15 July—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We are currently resisting the Israelis on the political, mobilization, and military levels. We are duty bound to pursue our legitimate resistance. [passage omitted] This resistance is justified, legitimate, and a must against the Israeli occupation. We will continue to resist Israel even if all the Arabs and all the Muslims conclude peace with it. We will continue to resist Israel as long as it continues to occupy our land.

However, if Israel implements the UN resolution [425] and withdraws beyond the boundaries of Lebanon and Palestine—and I mean Lebanon's international borders—we will cease armed resistance against the Israelis on the basis of national principles. There will no longer be a national problem between us and the Israelis.

There remains, however, a national problem between us, as Arabs, and the Israelis. In other words, if the Arabs decide to resist on all fronts, we will have to resist in the south and Western al-Biqa'. And if the Arabs do not decide to resist, we will absolutely be unable to, or rather we must not, open the south and Western al-Biqa' for resistance on the national level.

There is a slogan that I will have to criticize for the first time. It is said that we are fighting and resisting in Lebanon on behalf of the Arab world and all Muslims. This is not true. We are not fighting either on behalf of the Arab world or the Muslims. We are carrying out the resistance on behalf of ourselves, because the Israelis are occupying our land and are attacking our people.

I must here repeat our pledge that we made in public, namely if the Israelis withdraw we will cease the armed acts. I am one of the people who will meet his God without recognizing the Zionist entity. We will maintain our resistance on the cultural, political, economic, and mobilization levels against what I call the resistance of normalization. But the armed resistance we are pursuing now is being carried out on behalf of ourselves only. Nobody has assigned us to launch this resistance. [passage omitted]

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Radio Monte Carlo Cites Sources on Ross Visit

JN1407173795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jul 95

[Report by Sana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Western sources have described Ross' talks in the Syrian capital as difficult, saying that his talks with Syrian official, led by President al-Asad, were lengthy and that no date was announced for the resumption of the military talks in Washington on the officers' level.

The Syrian sources said that Israel would be fully responsible for any failure or success and that Syria has complied with the bases of peace and the principle of total withdrawal for total peace but that Israel has not complied with these bases and has not announced its readiness to withdraw to the line of 4 June, 1967, the most important part in the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track.

The security arrangements, which will be made after Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, are not a goal in themselves but one of many other parts that form the peace process.

The sources added that Ross has not personally announced the failure of his tour, pointing out that the duty of the coordinator of the peace process was largely a procedural and administrative one. The tour was made to prepare for the Washington meeting as part of the continued discussion of topics raised during the last meeting between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff in the presence of the U.S. sponsor.

Responsible sources asserted that the meetings between Israeli Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich and Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim would resume later but did not set any date for that.

Commentator Analyzes Peres' Remarks on Peace Talks

JN1607191695 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1748 GMT 16 Jul 95

["Behind the News" commentary by Yusuf Maqdisi]

[FBIS Translated Text] All the clamor which the Israeli officials raised following the tour to the region by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, has not succeeded in removing from the mind the question which Israel is trying to sidestep; namely, what is the use of the military experts meeting if no agreement has been reached on any security arrangements?

Negotiations for the sake of negotiations is not an aim in itself. Negotiations is a means of realizing clear results on the ground. Instead of talking about the time running out, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres should ask himself: Who hindered all progress on the Syrian-Israeli track since the beginning of the peace process in Madrid? Do we remind him of the conditional "yes" of the Shamir government or of Rabin's statement about the pointless Washington talks following the announcement about the Oslo agreement which was reached in secret corridors away from the Madrid frames of reference?

If Peres cares not to waste time, the Israeli Government must announce its readiness to withdraw from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders. However, Peres follows a different path. He says: It is inconceivable that the Syrians should ask us to reveal the final line of our withdrawal from the Golan when we are still at the starting point concerning security arrangements. Peres even goes further when he retracts his previous statements that Golan is a Syrian territory and says: When one of the two sides gains control over an area, he wins a certain privilege and in exchange he has to offer compensation in terms of security such as agreeing to have warning stations.

An analysis of such statements by Peres and other Israelis demonstrates that:

1. The Israeli Government refuses to agree to the land-for-peace principle and is still violating the clause of the impermissibility of the acquisition of the territory of others by forces, as stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution 242.

2. The Rabin Labor government, and the Likud government before it, dealt with the peace process as though it is within preparations for war because what they call security arrangements eliminate the essence of peace which realizes equitable [mutakafi'] security and stability for all sides.

3. The compensation which the Rabin government demands in exchange for an undefined withdrawal encroaches on Syria's national sovereignty because any Israeli presence on Syrian territory after withdrawal is a form of occupation regardless of the Israeli Government's pretexts.

4. The return of occupied Golan to Syria is not a privilege that should prompt it to offer something that encroaches on its national sovereignty. The return of the Golan is a legitimate Syrian right emphasized in UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 whose implementation the U.S. Administration regarded as the basis of realizing a comprehensive and just peace in the region. Based on this initiative, the peace process was launched in Madrid in late 1991.

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5. The basis of the peace process is implementing the principle of full [kamil] withdrawal in exchange for comprehensive [Shamil] peace. Any attempt to circumvent this principle and marginalize it by adding the factors of security and confidence-building, portraying them as more important than the withdrawal issue, reveals the Israeli Government's intention of trying to realize gains at the expense of others, as though the peace process is an extension of the Israeli occupation and not an expression of a serious policy of realizing a just and comprehensive peace based on legitimate international resolutions emphasized by the U.S. initiative.

Thus, Israel and not Syria is placing obstacles in the path of peace. Syria has clearly announced that peace is its strategic option. This option dose not mean offering concessions or rewards to Israel at the expense of Syria's territory and national sovereignty. It means ending the occupation completely in exchange for ordinary ['adiyah] peace relations providing security and stability for all.

When Israel makes up its mind and renounces the intention of realizing gains at the expense of others, the road to peace will become passable and with no obstacles. Therefore, we again ask: What is the use of the military experts meeting if Israel does not agree to the principles of peace topped by withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders?

Papers Cite Peace Process Difficulties

JN1607073195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN says that since the beginning of the peace process in Madrid about four years ago, Syria has spared no effort to provide the requirements for establishing a just, comprehensive peace. Damascus, the paper says, opened the door for the current peace process and protected it against all obstacles and difficulties. Syria has also adopted constructive stands which contributed toward the continuation of the peace process, saving it from the Israeli traps.

TISHRIN adds: Syria has announced that peace is one of its strategic options. Therefore, it dealt with the peace process sincerely and honestly, as most recently indicated by its agreement to hold a meeting of the two chiefs of staff in Washington. The aim of that move was to prove Syria's desire for peace, provide a chance for effecting a real breakthrough in the negotiations, and once again test the sincerity of Israel's intentions. The paper notes that Israel has placed obstacles before the meetings of military experts by its insistence on emptying those meetings of any content. The paper says: Thus, these kind of meetings have lost their usefulness. In light of that, Israel's call for a meeting of military experts is an exposed maneuver to waste time.

TISHRIN indicates that Syria announced that the negotiations are not an end in themselves but a means to look for the best and shortest way to achieve a just settlement and not to create an illusion of peace and deceive the public opinion and people. In light of that, the paper says, Israel's attempts to hold Syria responsible for the crisis which affected the military negotiations are ridiculous and unconvincing. In addition, Israel's insistence on the colonialist security concepts and going back on the agreement on equality [musawah] and symmetry [tanazur] in security arrangements increase doubts about Israel's seriousness and raises questions about its desire for the establishment of peace.

AL-THAWRAH discusses the Israeli obstructive policy since the beginning of the peace process in Madrid. It says that Israel adopted evasive tactics during the chiefs of staff talks in Washington and shirked the declared understandings on security arrangements on the Syrian track. Israel has created for Ross problems and questions meant to be turned into a full and independent issue to overshadow the substance by overconcentration on security guarantees for Israel only and excluding the others as a test for Syria's good intentions. Israel knows that Syria refuses even any attempt to discuss this or any other issue before Israel's acknowledgement of full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and returning to the 4 June 1967 lines. Security arrangements must come exclusively within the framework of this withdrawal and must be based on balance [tawazun], equality [tasawi], and equitability [takafu'] on the two sides of those lines and on respect for sovereignty.

AL-THAWRAH adds: We are committed to the peace process and to our national and pan-Arab principles. We are also committed to our fair and legitimate demands which are in line with the resolutions of the international legitimacy. We cannot be charged with failing to do our part or held responsible for the failure to achieve any progress. Nobody can charge us of violating our commitments toward the peace process. Israel, the only party not interested in arriving at any results or in the success of Ross' mission, is responsible for such practices.

AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Once again Israel has obstructed the U.S. sponsor's efforts in the wake of the Washington military talks to advance the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says that Dennis Ross, the U.S. envoy to the region, had hoped to announce the resumption of talks

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on security arrangements had he not run into Israeli obstacles. It has been Israel's practice to create such obstacles whenever there are signs of relaxation on the Syrian-Israeli track. The paper stresses that Syria has shown full eagerness and seriousness to render these efforts successful and to help the peace process arrive its desired objective. However, [words indistinct] prove that Israel is still far away from this objective. [Words indistinct] the responsibility for Ross' unsuccessful tour by attempting to promote tendentious anti-Syria propaganda campaigns focusing on details depicted by Israel as the core, premeditatedly ignoring that this core depends first and foremost on a clear and declared Israeli commitment to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

Paper Justifies Stand on Military Experts

JN1507112395 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 15 Jul (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH believes that Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, has failed to bridge the Israel-fabricated gaps, which created further obstacles and hampered the bid to move forward with what was agreed upon during the U.S. secretary of state's recent visit to the region, particularly as regards the meeting of the military officials at the end of this month.

The paper notes that Israel, as usual, was quick to blame Syria for the obstruction. With guilt written all over its face, Israel accused Syria of retreating from its position to send military experts [for talks with Israeli counterparts].

In a news report today, AL-THAWRAH says: The indisputable reality is that when Syria accepted the stages declared in the statement which Christopher made following his recent tour, including the sending of military experts after the Washington talks between the two chiefs of staff, it linked that acceptance to the assessment of the results, on which the time sequence for the order of the phases of negotiations is based. The paper notes that the resumption of talks on the level of experts requires the arrival at results, which can then be discussed in detail and used as a basis to develop practical formulas.

The paper adds: When Israel changes the priorities, places mines, and raises disputed and contentious points concerning the issue of the ground early warning station in a manner that hinders any agreement over a substantive issue, the question that has to be asked is: Why should the experts go to Washington and what will they discuss?

The paper adds: The references related to the details of the negotiations confirm that Israel's insistence on infringing on Syrian sovereignty made it raise the issue once again on a political level and not on the level of experts. This means that Syria has not reversed the decision to send its military experts as a tactic, but because of a substantive issue. It does not want its experts to go on a tour, and it rejects Israel's promotion of the mechanism which it insists on, and which come under the title negotiations for the sake of negotiations.

In its news report, AL-THAWRAH says: Asked about the reasons for the new Israeli obstruction — which is based on insisting on what is insignificant in the security arrangements that concerns the ground warning station — the informed sources confirm that Israel does not wish to settle the issue. These sources add that Israel usually does not wait until the discussion of a certain point is completed before moving to another point, which may be based on the first. It, therefore, subdivides the security arrangements and wants to drown the negotiations, thinking that differences in details can conceal the substance, which concerns the priority of complete withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borderlines.

The paper concludes by saying: The U.S. sponsor must draw lessons from the new complications which Israel is trying to place before any aspired—for progress in the peace talks. When the complications and problems are exactly specified, it will be easier to deal with them if Israel is serious about its search for peace.

Australian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

JN1707111395 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 17 Jul (SANA)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and his delegation left Damascus this morning at the end of an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic during which he was received by President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was seen off by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, a number of ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Australian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency's correspondent, Evans said his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was very good, and that he has the impression that Syria is willing to realize just and comprehensive peace in the region. He noted that a number of difficult issues continue to block the achievement of such peace. He expressed his country's hope that suitable solutions will be found to overcome these issues in order to realize peace and stability in the region.

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Foreign Minister Confers With Russia's Posuvalyuk

JN1607125695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Viktor Posuvalyuk, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, this morning.

On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and Director of Special Offices Dr. Mikha'il Wahbih. On the Russian side, it was attended by Russian Ambassador in Damascus Viktor Gogitidze.

Discussions dealt with the situation in the region and the peace process developments.

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India

Commentary Views Improved U.S., Vietnamese Ties

BK1407131395 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Jul 95

[Commentary by T.G. Nallamuthu]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The restoration of full diplomatic relations with Vietnam announced by American President Bill Clinton has not come a day too soon, but it has been excellently timed. Though initiated during the early Republican presidential term of George Bush, the step-by-step restoration in economic and political relations began with the relaxation and then the lifting of the economic embargo, permitting American companies to participate in bids for lucrative business deals three years ago. Later, with a better cooperation between the two on the question of the 2,200 American soldiers still listed missing in action, President Clinton allowed opening of a liaison office in each other's country last year. With the architect of the Vietnam misadventure, the then U.S. defense minister, Mr. Robert McNamara, admitting in April that Washington was wrong in Vietnam, the deck was clear for restoration of full diplomatic relations. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations annual ministerial meeting and post-ministerial dialogue session with its Western dialogue partners, including the United States, followed by the ASEAN Regional Forum is due to begin in 10 days in Brunei. Thus, it would have been a diplomatic embarrassment for Washington to sit and discuss the economic, political, and strategic situations in the Asia-Pacific region where Vietnam would enter as a seventh member of ASEAN. At the ASEAN Regional Forum, many contentious issues, including the Spratly Islands dispute, would come up and discussions with Vietnam — a claimant — would have been embarrassing for the United States without the restoration of ties.

From a strategic point of view also, it is beautifully timed. With China slowly but surely emerging as the only power capable of challenging the United States after the liquidation of the Soviet Union, American strategic interests would lie in strengthening its ties with South, Southeast Asia. With Southeast Asia led by Japan and South Korea getting head over heels in making business deals with China in tough competition to the United States and the European Union, Beijing has spread its economic network, widened it even beyond the Asia-Pacific region. Even Vietnam, considered by many as a bulwark to check any Chinese design in Southeast Asia, is taking strenuous steps to normalize its political relations with Beijing.

Restoration of full diplomatic relations and perhaps a more positive gesture to Hanoi in the coming months of the most favored nation [MFN] treatment could come as a clear signal to Beijing how the United States is gearing to meet the political and military contingencies in this part of the world. For Vietnam, which had patiently waited for this full turn in history, the restoration in diplomatic relations should help in dismantling the remaining roadblocks to closer economic ties with Western nations. Japan, South Korea, Australia nearer home and many European economies are already doing brisk business with Hanoi. The American businessmen had felt left out with lucrative oil exploration concessions under stake. It was that pressure that relaxed the economic embargo earlier and now resulted in the restoration of ties. In a way, it is the triumph of corporate pressure, but for Hanoi the real breakthrough would be securing the MFN status, without which it cannot have a trade surplus. It only appears as a logical next step and would be hastened or delayed only by how China and the United States succeed or fail in containing the political row from spilling into trade and investment and how Hanoi itself plays its crucial political and economic cards.

Pakistani Purchase of French Planes Opposed

BK1707101895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has strongly opposed Pakistan's intentions to buy French-made Mirage combat planes.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, told newspersons in Batala, Punjab that the acquisition of these planes by Pakistan would endanger the security of the region. He pointed out that India is fighting a proxy war with Pakistan for the past 10 years and Pakistan is continuing to create disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir.

Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit to Austria

Addresses Future Technology Transfer

AU1307101595 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 13 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by "IS": "Indian Foreign Minister in Vienna"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vienna — India and Austria want to intensify economic relations. At a news conference yesterday, Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who arrived in Austria for a two-day visit on Tuesday [11 July], and Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel emphasized their intention to promote the extension

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of economic cooperation and to cooperate more closely also in the area of technology transfer in the future.

Schuessel, who in his capacity as economics minister made a public relations tour for the Austrian market to India in 1992, pointed to the enormous economic potential of India, the second largest country in Asia. Schuessel stated that, last year, Austria exported goods worth 780 million schillings to India, while imports from India amounted to 2 billion schillings.

Schuessel, who praised the good relations between the two countries, announced that Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky would meet Indian Prime Minister Narashimha Rao in New Delhi in September.

According to Schuessel, his talks with Foreign Minister Mukherjee focused on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Both politicians condemned the first invasion of a UN safe area, Srebrenica, by the Bosnian Serbs as "unacceptable," and called for the immediate release of the UN blue helmets. Schuessel spoke of the United Nations's "severest loss in credibility to date" and announced that Austria would do everything to restore this credibility.

Another issue was the role of the United Nations and the enlargement of the Security Council, which India advocates. Schuessel said that Austria was supporting an equal balance between permanent and non-permanent members in the Security Council.

In the afternoon, the Indian foreign minister met with Federal President Thomas Klestil, Nationalrat President Heinz Fischer, and business representatives.

Discusses Kashmir, Other Issues

BK1407162595 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1510 GMT 14 Jul 95

["Press release dated 14-07-95" — ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister [EAM], Shri Pranab Mukherjee, met and held discussions with the federal chancellor of Austria, H.E. [His Excellency] Dr. Franz Vranitzky on 13th July, 1995. The discussions covered a wide range of substantive issues.

The EAM gave an account of India's economic development and plans, emphasising the importance of development of infrastructure. The chancellor of Austria agreed that the economic relationship should go beyond mere trade.

The EAM conveyed that India has excellent relations with the EU [European Union] but that there were instances when the EU's approach to countries like India could be more understanding.

Attempts on the part of some EU member-states to introduce social clauses to restrict trade with India related to the conditions of labour should really be dealt with in the ILO and not in organisations like the WTO [World Trade Organization]. He added that the EU should not be inclusive but outward-looking. As Austria has always been sensitive to the needs of developing countries it is hoped that it will keep that in view when such matters are discussed in the EU. The chancellor said that he himself has always believed in the EU being outward-looking. The chancellor also gave a brief account of Austria's membership of the EU and referred to the expansion of EU in graduated manner.

The EAM gave details of progress achieved in the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], explaining our relations with Pakistan were troubled due to its involvement in aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. However, India was resolved to bring back normalcy to Kashmir through the electoral process and that the elections in Kashmir would be held very soon.

The chancellor said that the problem of Kashmir had remained unresolved for a long time and wondered what Austria or the EU could do to resolve the matter. The EAM conveyed that the problem has to be resolved bilaterally as provided for in the Simla agreement. It was also conveyed to the chancellor that the EU position that terrorism in Kashmir should not be supported from outside was essentially sound and Austria could add its weight to this position.

As regards China, the EAM conveyed that our relations with China have improved considerably starting with the PM's visit to China though we were apprehensive about Chinese supply of missiles to Pakistan. India had no intention of indulging in any arms race. As for Tibet and Dalai Lama, Shri Mukherjee said that India recognised Tibet to be a part of China but that Dalai Lama and the Tibetans had been given refuge in India and were free to pursue their normal activities. Of course, India could not be used as a springboard for activities against China.

The EAM also referred to the deteriorating situation in Bosnia. He said that India was troubled about the recent developments. He hoped that the international community through the EU and other organisations, would succeed in putting pressure on all concerned. He referred to the initiative that is being taken by NAM [Nonaligned Movement] through its chairman, Indonesia.

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Views Pakistan 'Threat' in Interview

AU1307132295 Vienna KURIER in German 13 Jul 95 p 4

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee by Susanne Lintl; place and date not given: "Great Potential in Economic Ties"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A guest who should mainly be courted by Austrian business representatives has been in Vienna since Tuesday [11 July] night: Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee. After all, he himself has said that economic relations between the two countries can still be extended: "Austrian investments have recently gone up considerably, nevertheless there is still a great potential."

In an interview with KURIER, the Indian foreign minister mainly discusses the nuclear threat posed by Pakistan: "Pakistan's nuclear power is threatening to us. Had the Pakistanis had serious plans for a nuclear strike in the past 40 years, it would have been directed against us." The international community should exert pressure on Pakistan to abandon its nuclear program. Pranab Mukherjee rejects any Indian "ambitions to the bomb": "We have the means to build the bomb in India, but we will not do it. We are in favor of nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes."

The minister does not see a solution for the troubled area of Kashmir: "We can only hope that the acts of violence, which are fomented by the radicals from neighboring Pakistan, will end. Before that there cannot be a solution." Muslim rebels have been fighting in Kashmir against the Indian Administration since 1989. About 12,000 people have so far been killed.

Mukherjee does not see any threats to the position of the ruling Congress Party, which had to put up with considerable losses in the elections in the Union states: "This will not have any effect at all on the efficiency of the work of the government."

Kidnapped Foreign Tourists Still Being Held

Government Appeals for Release

BK1407160695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has once again appealed to the abductors to set free all the five foreign tourists. A government spokesman said in Jammu that the foreign tourists are honored guests of the people of the state and no harm should be done to them. Meanwhile, efforts are on to trace [the] five foreign tourists and nine members of a marriage party who were kidnapped from different places of the state during the last few days. Amnesty International in a statement in London has requested those holding the foreigners hostage to release them immediately.

Rebel Group Denies Involvement

BK1507133695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, July 15 (AFP) — A Moslem rebel group suspected by Indian authorities of kidnapping five Western tourists in Kashmir denied involvement Saturday [15 July], hours before an ultimatum expires after which the hostages are to be killed.

"We appeal to the Al-Faran to release the five guests unharmed," Abul Qasim, 30, a spokesman for the Harkat-ul-Ansar (Movement of Friends) group told AFP in this Kashmir summer capital.

"Had Harkat been involved in these abductions, we would have asked for the release of our militants only," he said. "The Al-Faran list includes only two Harkat leaders."

The Al-Faran group, which claimed responsibility for the abductions, on Wednesday released a photograph of the five men and another one Saturday showing eight lightly-armed guerrillas surrounding the hostages.

The colour photograph apparently taken against a snow-clad glacier in Kashmir showed the grim captives, clad in woollens, unfettered. They appeared to be unharmed physically.

The captors wearing traditional Afghan clothes and caps were only armed with AK-47 assault rifles, a popular weapon in Afghanistan, which borders Kashmir.

The person who delivered the photograph of the five hostages declined to comment on questions on the Saturday evening deadline set by Al-Faran.

"We will let you know after it expires," was all the man said.

The Al-Faran has threatened to kill the hostages if Indian authorities do not release 21 imprisoned guerrillas by Saturday.

State officials believe the previously-unknown Al-Faran is a front-line group of the Harkat, which includes many Afghans in its ranks, and was responsible for the abductions of two British trekkers in Kashmir last year.

Qasim, a native of Pakistani-administered Kashmir who joined the Harkat eight years ago, said the group had not "really" kidnapped Britons David Mackie and Kim Housego a year ago.

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"We did not abduct them. They strayed into our camp and we took them in our custody," he said. "They were released after 17 days unharmed and without any demand."

Qasim said the wives of the current hostages — Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Fred Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert — should pressure Indian authorities to get their spouses released by freeing the detained rebels.

"The Al-Faran cannot afford to execute its captives but one never know what may happen," he added ominously.

Wells, 23, and Mangan, 34, were abducted along with Hutchings on July 4 while on a trekking holiday near the Kashmir town of Pahalgam, 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Srinagar.

Hasert, 25, and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro, a 28-year-old bachelor from Oslo, were seized separately on July 8 from the same area.

Meanwhile, the Kashmir government renewed an appeal to the militants to free the hostages while maintaining silence on their demand.

"No harm should be done to the hostages, who are the honoured guests of the state," a Kashmir government spokesman said, after the abductors asked Western countries to pressure India to release the 21 rebels as a pre-condition to a swap.

In an overnight message the Al-Faran group said: "We appeal to the Western nations whose men we are holding to tell the Indian government to release our colleagues.

Forces Begin Operation To Find Hostages

BK1507152995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have launched a massive combing operation in the higher hill district of Doda to locate the abducted persons even as the deadline set by the militants was approaching. The militants are demanding the release of 22 of their activists, including 15 unnamed foreign mercenaries by today. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, reviewed the situation at a high-level meeting at Srinagar today. He also took stock of the measures taken for the safe return of the five foreign tourists kidnapped by the militant outfit. The militants are holding two Britons, one American, one German, and a Norwegian. The diplomats of UK. USA, Germany, and Norway are camping in Srinagar to secure the release of their nationals.

The wives of the abducted foreign tourists have again appealed to the kidnappers to release their husbands on humanitarian grounds.

[Begin unidentified foreign woman's recording] We appeal once again to Al-Faran [the militant outfit] to let our loved ones go. We ask Al-Faran to treat our husbands as they would members of their own family. It is within the power of Al-Faran to safely release all five hostages immediately and the responsibility for their safety lies with Al-Faran. [end recording]

The state government has also repeated its appeal to the kidnappers to free the tourists without any harm. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that the tourists are the honored guests of the people of Kashmir and no harm should come to them. Several political parties, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, and Amnesty International have issued similar appeals for the safe release of the tourists.

Abductors Reportedly Extend Deadline

BK1507161195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The hostage issue in Jammu and Kashmir remains unresolved with the abductors still insisting on their demand for the release of 22 militants, including 15 foreign mercenaries. An agency report says they have extended the deadline by two days after the expiry of the earlier deadline today.

The governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, reviewed the situation at a high-level meeting in Srinagar. He also took stock of the measures taken for the safe release of the five abducted foreign tourists. The wives of the abducted foreign tourists have once again appealed to the militants to release their husbands on humanitarian grounds.

Diplomats of several European countries are camping in Srinagar. The state government has once again appealed to the militants to release the tourists immediately. Several political parties, the [All Parties] Hurriyat Conference, and Amnesty International have also made similar appeals.

In New Delhi, the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] leader, Mr. Javed Ahmad described the kidnapping as an un-Islamic act. He told newsmen that those who have done it are not friends but enemies of the Kashmiri people. The Panthers Party chairman, Mr. Bhim Singh, began a fast outside the Pakistan High Commission, demanding the immediate release of the kidnapped tourists.

Meanwhile, eight people, including two militants, have been killed while the security forces apprehended 19

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militants in the valley during the past 24 hours. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has also been recovered during the search operations. In Doda District, the militants have killed two persons.

Police Reportedly Contact Kidnappers

BK1607115295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, July 16 (AFP) — The Kashmir police have made "indirect" contact with Moslem guerrillas holding five abducted Western tourists, a police source said Sunday [16 July].

A senior police official said here that a team of police negotiators had established contact with the Al-Faran group that has claimed responsibility for seizing two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told AFP that the team would begin talks with the abductors before the expiry of a Monday evening deadline set by the rebels for the release of 21 jailed colleagues failing which the hostages would be killed.

"We are not rigid and are always ready for negotiations," the official said. "We want the safety of the foreigners who are very important to us."

The source said the government may release some of the detained militants in a bid to secure the freedom of the Westerners.

The official gave no further details of the "indirect" contact.

The Al-Faran seized two American and two British trekkers from Pahalgam, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) from here, on July 4. The German and the Norwegian were seized four days later after one of the Americans escaped.

The police source said the captives were reported to have been shifted to Wadhawan, nearly 50 kilometres (31 miles) from the mountain resort of Pahalgam.

The five hostages have been identified as Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Fred Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro.

Iran

Officials' Commentary, Reaction to Serb Aggression

Rafsanjani Compares Serbs to 'Zionists'

LD1607112395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today addressed members of the congress of the headquarters of Azerbaijan Martyred Commanders. He praised and honored the memory of the epic-makers of eight years of the imposed war. [passage omitted]

Continuing his remarks, the president referred to the tragic events in Bosnia, saying:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] No-one could deny that there has not been aggression, tyranny, and such things in Bosnia. Everyone accepts — the West, the East, the Third World, different groups in the world all accept — that what is happening there is tyrannical. A group of people there are being helplessly martyred and turned into refugees, their country is being destroyed, and so forth, simply because they are Muslims, because they follow a school of thought which is different from what others favor.

People admit that this is happening. The United Nations has seemingly gone there and brought over a force, paid for by others, apparently creating safe-havens. NATO has prepared its forces outside, set up bases, prepared its aircraft on the pretext that they want to defend civilians. Resolutions have been passed one after another at the United Nations, and whatever could be done has been done, at least outwardly, to stop this tyranny.

But, in practice, we see that a lawless group has been able to easily come and even detain the UN forces in a city such as Srebrenica — this is what has happened recently — they have plundered that city, separated women from their husbands and sons, take them to refugee camps, and driven the others out of the city. This is exactly what the Zionists have done in Palestine. It almost seems that the Serbs have copied the Zionists. [end recording]

Rowhani Faults U.S., Others in 'Crime'

LD1607104695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the beginning of today's open Majles session, Deputy Majles Speaker Rowhani, who was chairing the session, strongly criticized the United Nations for its performance concerning the Serb crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said the fall of

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Srebrenica and the most horrific atrocities against the innocent inhabitants of the city marks a definite end for the nations' confidence in the United Nations and a complete loss of credibility for that organization.

He said: There is no doubt the UN Security Council, NATO, the United States, and European countries are partners in the biggest crime of the century. They should be made accountable to history and the people of the world.

Mr. Rowhani said that by ignoring the Serbs' inhumane actions, the United Nations, the United States, and some European countries are showing a green light to the Serbs to commit fresh crimes. He said: The inaction of the United Nations in Bosnia is not due to the UN's weakness; it is due to the domination of that organization by satanic forces like the United States.

The deputy speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the Organization of Islamic Countries, Islamic countries, and Muslims not to choose silence in the face of such crimes, but to help the innocent people of Bosnia with appropriate action and effort.

Finally, he announced the readiness of the Iranian nation and government to render any kind of assistance and support for the defenseless people of Bosnia.

Velayati Appeals to EU Over 'Tragedy'

LD1407161695 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message to chief of the council of ministers of the European Union, announcing the Iranian anxiety over the Bosnian situation, called for the EU's efforts to prevent a human tragedy in the heart of the Europe.

In his message Velayati has also expressed that in the past 39 months europe has witnessed the catastrophe of the century and during this period, despite approving over 60 resolutions by the United Nations as well as various negotiations by the European Union and the international communities regarding the Bosnian crisis, the world is still witnessing the gradual killing of thousands of defenseless people.

Velayati Speaks to OIC Head

LD1507180295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation today with Mr. Abdellatif Filali, the Moroccan prime minister and foreign minister, who also holds the current chairmanship of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister, called for definite decisions and practical measures to put an end to the killing of Muslims in Bosnia.

In the conversation, Mr. Velayati referred to the situation in the towns of Zepa and Tuzla, which have been declared safe areas and which are coming under destructive attacks from the Serbs, saying that, unfortunately, the United Nations is not doing anything to prevent the continuation and deterioration of these terrible conditions and all hopes rest on the OIC and Islamic countries. Our country's foreign minister stressed the need for holding an immediate meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries' contact group in order to adopt definite and practical decisions to put an end to the human tragedy in Bosnia. He announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to host the meeting.

In the course of the telephone conversation, the Moroccan prime minister and foreign minister, for his part, welcomed the proposal made by our country's foreign minister and said that holding a meeting of the foreign ministers of the contact group of Islamic countries is one of the top priorities of the OIC toward adopting practical decisions and measures to prevent the deterioration of the situation in Bosnia.

Velayati Calls For 'More Active' OIC

LD1507104895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest deplorable situation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the ways to make the Islamic countries more active in preventing the continuation and intensification of this crisis and human catastrophe were assessed in a telephone contact made between Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, and Hamid Algabid, OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] secretary general.

According to the Central News Unit, during this telephone conversation, our country's foreign affairs minister referred to the tragic situation in Bosnia and emphasised the need for the OIC to become more active. He said: The OIC should take decisive measures to end the Bosnian crisis and became more active in this direction.

Stressing the fact that presently the Bosnian Muslims have pinned their eyes to the OIC practical measures, our country's foreign affairs minister pointed out the uselessness of the UN Security Council's recent resolution, and said: The United Nations and the Security Council have shown their hesitation over the Bosnian issue, and the peacekeeping forces without any resistance have left the areas which were under their protection.

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These are the manifestation of the fact that the United Nations does not want to take an important step.

Referring to the sensitivity of the situation, he stressed the need for any kind of efforts and rapid measures to prevent Serb crimes.

Confirming receipt of a written message sent by our country's foreign affairs minister, and welcoming the proposals that were raised, Mr. Hamid Algabid explained the measures taken by the OIC, including those with regard to the UN Security Council, the International Contact Group, and the dispatch of an OIC delegation to the member states of the UN Security Council. He said: We make our utmost efforts persistently to contribute toward resolving the Bosnian crisis and have been in constant consultation with you in this regard, and we will make use of the constructive proposals put forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Velayati Contacts Turkish Counterpart

LD1607122795 Tehran IRNA in English
1204 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message to his Turkish counterpart, Erdal Inonu, has underlined the need for taking serious practical measure against the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia.

In the message, which was handed over to Inonu by Iran's ambassador to Ankara Mohammad Reza Baqeri Saturday [15 July], Velayati called for an extraordinary meeting of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The Turkish foreign minister welcomed the idea and lauded Iran's timely reaction in this regard.

He also announced Ankara's readiness to actively participate in the upcoming meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina and expressed regret over the inaction of the United Nations towards the Serbian aggressions against Bosnian cities.

Inonu called on the foreign ministers of the Contact Group members to try to persuade the U.N. to play a more active and more effective role in this respect.

He called the Serbs' onslaught on Bosnia rings the alarm bell for the world especially for Muslim countries. [as received]

The recent developments in the region and Tehran-Ankara relations were among other issues discussed in the meeting.

Croatian Minister Pays Official Visit

Addresses 'Oppressed' Muslims

LD1607143795 Tehran IRNA in English
1418 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — The international community should fulfil its duties in defending the oppressed Bosnian Muslims and repelling the aggressor Serbs, Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic announced here Sunday [16 July].

Granic, who made the remark upon his arrival here at Mehrabad international airport Sunday, said that Iran and Croatia were two "friendly" countries and that the Islamic Republic of Iran plays a "positive" role in strengthening and forming the Bosnian Federation.

He regretted that the situation in Bosnia had been aggravated after Srebrenica's collapse and 40,000 of its citizens' homelessness.

The Croatian official underscored the need to find a speedy solution to the ongoing clashes in Bosnia.

"We strongly condemn the recent attacks by the Serbs and while voicing sympathy with the Bosnian people and government, announce our readiness to end the clashes," said the minister.

Granic concluded that from Croatian point of view, strong unity between Bosnian and Croatian nations in the Balkans could be a solid formula to counter the Serbs' aggressions in the region.

Discusses 'Crisis' With Velayati

LD1607172595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Croatian Foreign Minister Mr. Granic, who arrived in Tehran today, has held his first round of talks with Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati. In the course of these talks, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly the situation of Srebrenica, Zepa, and Gorazde.

Expressing satisfaction at the course of relations between the two countries, Mr. Granic said that the recent visit of our country's First Vice President Mr. Habibi to Zagreb was a positive step toward promoting ties between the two countries. He described the grounds for expansion of economic and political ties as good.

In connection with the crisis in Bosnia, Mr. Granic expressed concern at the continuation of the Serbs' barbaric attack on Srebrenica and Zepa and pointed out

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that Serbs are expansionist and that the UN efforts to curtail the war are fruitless. He stressed the need for serious decision and action to sort out the situation in Bosnia.

Mr. Velayati, too, expressed satisfaction with the course of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the two states of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, and added: The first session of the two countries'joint commission, which is due to be held in Tehran in the near future, will be a positive step toward expansion of economic cooperation and transfer of experience between Tehran and Zagreb.

Mr. Velayati expressed concern at the grave situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been sensitive toward the plight of the innocent and defenseless people of that republic and is sorry to see that the international community has acted apathetically and ineffectively to resolve this crisis and to silence the guns of war in the heart of Europe.

On the plight of thousands of homeless Bosnian refugees, Mr. Velayati said: The majority of them are defenseless women and children, who are deprived of every basic necessity of life.

During these talks, they also exchanged views on the federation of Bosnia and Croatia.

Briefs Habibi on Latest Developments

LD1707092495 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA — First Vice- President Hassan Habibi here Monday [17 July] announced that upon Iran's proposal member states of the Islamic contact group will soon meet to make appropriate decisions to put an end to the violation of the rights of Bosnian Muslims.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Croatian Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Mate Granic who is currently here heading a top political delegation.

Underlining the need to strengthen cooperation between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina to confront Serb aggressions, Habibi expressed hope that regional states particularly Croatia would take measures to establish peace and tranquility in the Balkans in order to safeguard rights of Bosnians.

He reiterated that current developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina proved that the international organizations and big powers only chant slogans in support of human rights. Therefore, he added, the Third World nations should defend their rights themselves.

Terming his recent trip to Croatia as "very fruitful", the Iranian official expressed hope that the joint commission to be formed in a near future pave the way for the implementation of agreements reached between the two countries in different political, cultural, economic and technical areas.

Meanwhile, Granic briefed Habibi on the latest developments in the Balkans paticularly the critical situation in Srebrenica and Zepa, adding that the international society has been impotent in resolving the crisis and putting out flames of war in the region.

Referring to bilateral relations as friendly, the Croatian official stressed that the recent trip of Iranian delegation to his country had great effects in further stregnthening mutual ties.

Describing as bright prospect of bilateral cooperation in various economic, political and cultural fields, Granic expressed hope that by activating the joint commission, bilateral cooperation would enter a new stage.

Thanks Rafsanjani for Humanitarian Aid

LD1707150295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at a meeting with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Croatia [Mate Granic] today, described the recent actions of the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina as ruthless and inhumane.

Referring to the deadly silence of the United Nations and NATO in the face of the Serbs' acts of aggression, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: These forums should at least pretend as if they are acting in accordance with their superficial philanthropic claims. He added: The UN apathy vis-a-vis the events in Bosnia will make other nations totally abandon their trust for this organization.

According to our correspondent's report, Mr. Mate Granic, in turn, conveyed the warm greetings of his country's president and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its humanitarian assistance to the suffering people of the Balkans.

Syrian Envoy: Israel 'Not Interested' in Peace

LD1507215295 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — Syrian ambassador here, Ahmad al-Hasan, on Saturday [15 July] emphasized that the Zionist regime is not interested in real peace in the region.

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He made the remark in a telephone conversation with IRNA following the U.S. attempts to pressure Damascus to resume negotiations between military experts from Syria and the Zionist regime.

"There is no indication of the Zionist regime's real intention for materialization of a just, real and lasting peace in the Middle East," al-Hasan told IRNA.

He added that to unmask Tel Aviv's real intention of its claims for peace, Syria entered into negotiations with the Zionist regime at army commanders level.

The Syrian diplomat said Damascus which is for a "real and just peace in the region," has realized that Israel is merely killing time.

Al-Hasan touching on the recent visit to the region by special U.S. coordinator for the Middle East, Dennis Ross, said the American official tried to persuade Syrian officials to resume the talks with Zionist military experts.

The recent U.S. claim as an impartial mediator in the so-called Middle East peace plan points to the fact that Washington instead of exerting pressure on Tel Aviv to bow before international will, is is siding with it.

Ross after a two-hour meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister, Faruq al-Shar' last Thursday, said there is still a long way to determine the date for future meetings of military experts of Syria and Israel.

Report on Recent Interview With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC1307131395 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Jul 95 pp 1, 14-15

[Report by the TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—In a recent interview with the Middle East Insight [MEI], President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke on a host of issues from reconstruction to foreign policy. Following is the full text of the interview:

MEI: Mr. President, during the six years that you have been in office, you have overseen Iran's transition from a war economy to a peacetime economy and its simultaneous transition, due to the death of the leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, to a post-Khomeyni era. Which of the accomplishments in this period are you most satisfied about, and what objectives do you hope to accomplish during the remainder of your tenure in office?

Rafsanjani: In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. It is very natural that after the end of the war our most important goal should be the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. Many of the infrastructural facilities and structures of the country had been destroyed during (the Iraqi) war and even before the war we were a little backward in the infrastructure field. That's why we have designated the ten years (after the war) as the "Construction Decade" in a bid to carry out infrastructural works. So far we have proceeded according to the plan. Almost all war ruins have been renovated. Many infrastructural works have been done, such as control of water, construction of dams, power plants, development of communications, roads and railways, transportation, agriculture, steel industry, copper, lead, zinc, machine industries, we have expanded our defense industries, activating the mines which were, idle, expansion of universities for training of manpower, paying attention to deprived areas—a major part of which had been delayed—fisheries, ports, etc. All this was included in the plan and we could turn the bad situation at that time to a good condition at the present. Fortunately we have been successful in achieving these objectives today.

In the oil and gas sector, which was greatly damaged (during the war), we made great achievements and today we've supplied gas to most of our towns. The petrochemicals in Iran were almost nothing. We worked hard on them to the extent that today the petrochemical capacity is about 12 million tons. We also made huge investments in the consumer industries to meet the domestic requirements. Altogether, we spent $100 billion both from our own sources and (the money) we have borrowed from abroad. We also have the second development plan in front of us. It's a five-year plan, and we hope to achieve our goals at the end of the plan.

MEI: Mr. President, with the many accomplishments you spoke about, how currently would you characterize the state of the Iranian economy? Some experts have described it as being in an extremely fragile state, with the falling value of the rial, high inflation and unemployment, and some foreign debts. How did your reform program fare, and how do you intend to address Iran's current economic challenges?

Rafsanjani: Before launching the (development) plan, the economy had difficulties and was fragile. But today the foundations of the economy in this country is solid. The fundamentals are there. I'll give you an example. In the beginning of the development plan, we spent $30 billion (on investment), but this year we are only spending $10 billion and the country's reconstruction is continuing at the same speed. That means we have reduced our economic dependence on the outside. Many of the things we had to import are now produced inside. For instance, (non-ferrous) metals (industries) are done all inside the country. Or chemicals, perhaps

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5,000-6,000 factories are receiving their materials from inside the country. We have supplied natural gas to everywhere and all the industries can use natural gas. With the investment that we have made, we can also meet the requirements in meat, poultry, and eggs. Large projects like the construction of dams, are designed and constructed in this country. I can say that most of our needs in Iran from the designing to engineering and production are done inside the country. Our foreign debts as compared to other countries of course is less, is not that much, is $18 billion, but we have used this foreign debt in order to strengthen the economy; we have invested in infrastructure and other things. They are points of strength for our economy and we do not have any difficulty in repayment of our foreign debts. They are paid in installments with five or six years and it will not be a heavy burden on us. And it will be amortized by the year 2,000. And it is a guarantee for the sale of our oil if the U.S. wants to prevent the selling of our oil. Our foreign debt is guaranteed. I do not believe that we have much economic difficulty in front of us. Of course, we have inflation in this country because we have spent much money in industry on projects that are not yet finished, but compared with other countries in the region, our inflation is low and life is less expensive. If you look at the countries around us, and the products from Iran go to those countries, they are very profitable for them, to trade.

MEI: It is understood that many of the surgical, painful measures you have taken will bear fruit long after you leave office. And you have guided and shaped a new mentality among the people here to depend less on the government and to be more involved in the free market economy. How do you feel about this?

Rafsanjani: Transformation of the economy of a country from a war-economy, particularly an imposed war of eight long years, to an economy of growth and development, requires a lot of sacrifices. Growth and economic development of our country is possible with patience and increasing efforts of all segments of the population. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted such policies to secure economic growth in Iran. My ultimate objective, as the President, is to achieve prosperity for the nation and progress for the country, and in this connection, I am happy to shoulder all the burdens and difficulties that are inevitable for the period of reconstruction. The prospect of Iran is bright and promising, and an overwhelming majority of Iranian people realize the wisdom of the Government policies and support them.

MEI: Mr. President, there have recently been reports of riots and domestic disturbances over declining living conditions in some Iranian cities. How does your government view these occurrences?

Rafsanjani: These are usually small incidents that are blown way out of proportion by the opposition media. For example, if you compare this incident to the incidents that took place in California, the USA, this is very small incident compared to them. For instance, the incidents in France by the farmers. You have such things in Turkey and Pakistan much larger in proportion than what we have in Iran. For example, most of these incidents relate to the municipality administration office. They wanted to stop them from the construction of buildings without a license and they may resort to riot. Maybe, for example, bus tickets were made more expensive and such things happened. The people are with the government in this country and socially speaking we do not have big problems. If you come with the leaders of the country to one of the trips that we make to one of the cities, you will see how good relations exist between the people and the leaders.

MEI: There were times during your presidency when the most outstanding and challenging foreign issue of all, the U.S.-Iranian relationship, seemed on the verge of some improvement. Yet now, it hits an all time low, with President Clinton issuing and executive order on May 8 prohibiting trade with and investment in Iran. What went wrong after some initial hopeful signs? Why do you think the Clinton Administration has toughened its policy toward Iran at this time?

Rafsanjani: This new measure we feel is partly because of the pressure that is exerted by the Zionist circles. But generally speaking, from the very beginning of the revolution, American administrations have shown hostility towards the revolution. They have never shown good intentions. The internal conditions of the United States, the rivalries between the two parties, and the other internal problems that the U.S. has, has made it necessary to pick up an enemy outside. In the past the Soviet Union was considered the enemy, now our country, Iran. They want Iran to be a scape goat. When their peace plan in the Middle East has failed, they cannot openly say that we planned it poorly ourselves. They have to put the blame on somebody else.

MEI: Has Iran thought of coming with some creative strategy to defuse this current tension?

Rafsanjani: It is doomed to fail, the United States cannot do much against us. What can possibly happen? They said they should not buy our oil, we can shift and sell to others. If they ban trade with us, it is the United States that is going to lose. The things that we are used to buy from the United States we'll shift to other countries. We have been the target of such bans—even worse and

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more severe bans—at a time when we had a war. These bans have had no impact on our economy and they will not affect this country.

MEI: The United States has long insisted that it was willing to engage in a dialogue with authoritative Iranians, in the open and without any preconditions. Wouldn't it be reasonable to test U.S., sincerity on this issue, especially now, and designate an official person to have any discussions without preconditions about many of the outstanding matters that your country is concerned about?

Rafsanjani: Unfortunately, because of the behavior of the United States, there is not much trust in this country for the United States. It may be presumed in Iran that the United States has ulterior motives for this proposal. That is why we have said that the United States should, for once at least, prove its good intentions, so the road can be paved. I told them, for example, that as a show of goodwill, they can free our assets that have been illegally frozen in the United States.

MEI: With regard to this issue, you have frequently mentioned the Iranian assets frozen by the U.S. Most Americans believe that, after signing the Algiers Accord in 1981, the tribunal at The Hague has been settling Iranian and American claims and counter-claims. Will you please define what you mean by Iranian assets?

Rafsanjani: Before the Revolution we had a special account for foreign military sales, it was called the FMS account. Our oil was sold and the money was deposited into this account for selling of U.S. arms to Iran, and we have substantial amounts of money in that account, still outstanding. The weapons systems and armor that the United States was supposed to deliver were not given to us. But they have taken our money and the money is there, and no weapons are coming. We had also bought at that time substantial amounts of weapons that were never delivered in the United States and also some logistical military provisions that are still there and are confiscated by the United States.

MEI: We realize that Iran morally supports and inspires many Islamic groups in the region. However, the United States has alleged that Iran gives financial support and trains groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad to carry out military and terroristic activities that subvert the Arab-Israeli peace process. They point, for example, to the Bet Lid bombing, among others. Could you clarify what is the nature of Iran's support and assistance to Hamas and Islamic Jihad, for example?

Rafsanjani: These are baseless allegations that have been leveled against us on numerous occasions and they keep being repeated and we have given our replies and answers to those allegations. We have stated very clearly that we do not support any terrorist groups and we condemn all forms of terrorist acts. In Lebanon, we do help, but our help goes to the Shi'a population. They are the targets of the atrocities of the occupying forces. Their country, the southern part of Lebanon, is occupied and the victims of this occupation are helped by Iran. We also help these people to expel, push back, the occupation forces. Regarding the Palestinian question, the peace plan that is now under way, we say that, in our view, the peace plan is not going to work out, and it is not a just plan. We do nothing else, it is just a statement. We don't see any good intention on the part of the United States, either. We do not see the United States as a neutral mediator in this case. And the reasons have shown themselves in the occupation of the new lands by the Israelis in Jerusalem. And the United States, instead of giving a reward to the Arab countries, you saw what happened at the UN Security Council, it vetoed the resolution [condemning Israeli land seizures in Jerusalem] and trampled upon the vote of 14 members of the council in favor of Israel. We ask them what have you done for four million Palestinian refugees? What will their destiny be as a result of this peace plan? Is this peace practical and durable when there still exist 4 million refugees?

MEI: You have raised many questions in my mind about the peace process. What is your assessment of the Syrian-Iranian relationship, and assuming a Syrian-Israeli peace agreement, how will that affect Iran's relationship with Syria?

Rafsanjani: At the present time, we have excellent relations with the Syrians, and we do not believe that Syria will submit to an unjust peace.

MEI: What if a real peace agreement that satisfies Syria's needs and aspirations is reached? What will you position be?

Rafsanjani: We shall wait and see for that day to come. Then we shall state our view.

MEI: Assuming a treaty between Israel and Lebanon, it will have to involve Hizballah. How will Hizballah's acquiescence to a peace treaty affect Iran-Hizballah relationship?

Rafsanjani: The objective of Hizballah, in the first place, is to put an end to the occupation of their country by Zionists. Were the government of Lebanon to achieve such objective, both Hizballah, and we will be pleased and happy; but, Zionist regime is essentially expansionist.

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MEI: Has Iran calculated the cost that is accruing from its opposition to the peace process between Arabs and Israelis?

Rafsanjani: Of course, we have to pay a price when you defend your principles. If you want to be free-minded and defend your principles, you should be willing to pay the price. We are revolutionary and Muslims, and we are prepared to invest and pay the price for the principles that we believe. I think any freeminded person is willing to pay the price in order to defend his principles of freedom.

MEI: Mr. President, If I could add to this... following your own principles of noninterference in other peoples' and countries' affairs, and the use in many instances, of your good offices, to facilitate conflict resolution and defuse tension in instances like in Central Asia, Afghanistan, and many other places. Could Iran clearly see itself at the point where it can declare its impartiality toward the peace process and the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Rafsanjani: Practically speaking, we do not take any action against the peace plan. When we see this whole process is unjust we state our opposition as a matter of principle. But if the content of the peace plan is just, the substance is just, we shall go along with it.

MEI: Mr. President, a great many people, who otherwise wish to see improved relations between Iran and the West, are greatly discouraged by Iran's human rights record, specifically the continuing threat to the life of Salman Rushdie. it has become a symbol in the West, a symbol that is being effectively used by your opponents to cause unnecessary problems for you, and delay progress with other countries. How could Iran plan to deal with this issue, and get out of this vicious circle?

Rafsanjani: Of course we have to separate the two issues, human rights and the Salman Rushdie case. I think human rights is used as an instrument to exert pressure and also to achieve some goals that particularly the United States pursues. For example, you see in the US an incident takes place, the mass killing of the Davidian sect, the followers of David Koresh, but very soon without wasting much time, they just stifle the matter as if nothing has happened. But if a small incident takes place in Iran, it is blown way out of proportion and is publicized for years. The scene of mass killing of that sect was very tragic. I heard on BBC yesterday that in the U.S. the prisoners who are disproportionally black are moved around and taken to work with chains on their feet. This is very tragic. Nothing like that happens in Iran. In Iran prisoners visit with their families, they are treated with dignity and they work for which they are paid.

Regarding Salman Rushdie, I think this whole affair is created by the arrogant powers in order to use it as a time bomb, in case it is needed for the relations between Iran and the West. The issue is that the writer has insulted the Prophet of Islam and the fatwa of all religious scholars in this case is the capital punishment for such a person. We have this in our religious texts. Even if Imam Khomeyni had not issued the same fatwa, we had the same verdict in our religious books that go as far back as 1000 years. This is in the book, fight (Islamic law), and religious teachings. It is called, Sabb al-Nabi, meaning swearing the Prophet.

MEI: Speaking of scenes of killings, and knowing that your country has had its share of bombings and terroristic activities, how did you feel when you first heard and saw the bombing in Oklahoma?

Rafsanjani: At that time I was visiting Georgia and in a press interview I stated that we condemn such terrorist acts and are appalled by them. We consider these acts to be criminal. But that incident showed the threat and dangers that exist inside American society as a result of the injustices there.

MEI: It is said that Iran is pursuing a covert nuclear weapons program, and Iran is accused of trying to build a nuclear bomb. What is Iran's policy toward nuclear proliferation? And how do you respond to those who say Iran does not need nuclear power because of its natural resources?

Rafsanjani: These claims are only raised by Mr. Clinton, Christopher and the Israelis. Have any other people made such claims against us? Are there any other groups or people making such a claim?

MEI: They seem to feel very strongly about this.

Rafsanjani: In the region that I used to live, Rafsanjani, we have a proverb; people say that if lie has a piece of bone, the liar would have choked on the bone because of lying so much. And I say that if lie had a bone, you would have new elections for your president now, because he would have choked by now. We have expressed our clear hatred and abhorrence for these weapons of mass destruction that kill innocent and guilty together.

In response to one of your questions, I stated that we are ready to pay a high price for expressing our views on justice. What greater cruelty than the one the Americans committed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Anyone who has knowledge of that incident would not wish to have nuclear weapons. The American people should rest assured that we are not pursuing, not on the path of acquiring nuclear weapons. The benefits of

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nuclear technology, of course, are numerous, and we cannot forgo other uses of peaceful nuclear technology.

MEI: Mr. President, Islamic resurgence seems to be on the rise. Many neighboring countries are struggling with this issue. What is Iran's view on the wide-spread Islamic resurgence?

Rafsanjani: People today look at Islam as a religion that can also govern—a complete way of life. it is only natural for the people to seek to participate in political decision-makings. Before, it was publicized that religion is concerned only with the relation between an individual and God, and it has nothing to do with social matters. This was a secular way of thinking, of mostly Christians, particularly the Catholic Church. But this kind of mentality has changed after the victory of the Islamic Republic in Iran among the Muslims.

MEI: Some people have accused Iran of being involved in recent disturbances in Bahrain. Others have accused Iran of assisting Sudan militarily and of having links to FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in Algeria, and Islamic groups in Egypt. How do you respond to these accusations and could you tell us about the nature of your relationship with Sudan and the FIS in Algeria?

Rafsanjani: It is our principal policy not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and we insist on this policy. Neither in Bahrain, nor Algeria, nor in Egypt, we have had no relation nor given any assistance to these groups and the events that have taken place in those countries. With respect to Sudan, and we have good relations and we give them some aid from time to time, but that has nothing to do with tensions. it is a government- to-government formal relationship.

MEI: Some assume that continuing U.S. pressure on Iran might lead to an improved relationship with Iraq, or even to an alliance with Iraq, even with Saddam still in power. What is the current condition of state between the two countries; and, considering the circumstances and the experiences you have had before with Saddam's Iraq, how do you foresee the development of the relationship between the two countries?

Rafsanjani: Naturally we are not happy with the past experience we've had with Saddam. We suffered very much in the war Saddam initiated against us. We are opposed to the pressures and coercive actions of Saddam's government against his people. It is a dictatorship. We also opposed and voiced our opposition, especially with the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. But if there is going to be a legitimate government in Iraq, we have to have some sort of relationship, because Iraq is our neighbor after all. Right now, we are acting according to the limits of the United Nations. In the future, different conditions may arise; we cannot predict the future.

MEI: Do you think it is time for the UN to lift sanctions against Iraq?

Rafsanjani: The people of Iraq are helplessly bearing a great deal of suffering. There are innocent people who suffer very much as a result of the sanctions. Before they were the target of oppression by their own government, but now they are suffering from the outside world as well. But as we are not sure if the Iraqi government would abandon its adventurist policies, we have to think about a solution to these two problems.

MEI: Some have suggested that Turkey's recent invasion of northern Iraq was done with the tacit approval of Tehran, even though your government publicly expressed strong reservations about the move. Furthermore, Turkey has called recently for border changes and adjustments with Iraq. How do you assess this situation, and what is your position toward the Kurdish problem, and how would you solve it?

Rafsanjani: We had no prior information that Turkey planned to enter Iraqi territory. Mr. Demirel called me and told me about it after they had entered Iraq. When there was a concentration of Turkish forces along the Iraqi border, I asked Mr. Demirel the reason for this, and he told me it was because of the problem they had with the Kurds inside Iraq. After they entered, he promised me that they would suppress the terrorists and withdraw within a short period of time. Of course, that lasted more than what we thought, and they advanced further, but now they say they have withdrawn. Of course we do oppose any change in the borders between Iraq and Turkey or annexation of any cities to Turkey (from Iraq), unless the people of the two countries vote for such changes of border in both countries.

We think that the rights of the Kurds, whether in Iran or Turkey, or Iraq, should be given to them and they should not feel separated, alienated. They should feel they are part of the country and be treated on an equal footing. This is our policy toward our Kurds in Iran.

MEI: How do you view Iran's role and responsibility as a regional power in the Persian Gulf?

Rafsanjani: We believe the littoral states in the Persian Gulf are the true owners of this area, and they have the responsibility to maintain security and peace there. Half of the coastline belongs to Iran, so Iran alone has the same amount of rights and responsibility as all those countries put together.

MEI: The Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb Islands dispute with the UAE seems to impede improved

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relations between Iran and the PGCC [Persian Gulf Cooperation Council] states. Mr. President, why did this dispute flare up in the first place? Rafsanjani: We think the reason is foreign instigation, coming mainly from the U.S. They want to use this as a pretext to assert their military presence in the Persian Gulf. This issue had been resolved before the Islamic Revolution, but all of a sudden it was raised two years ago, and it has been inflamed.

MEI: What is the exact nature and magnitude of the military buildup on the islands?

Rafsanjani: It is nothing new. We had the same situation during the war, and we have checked the situation during the war. We have defensive military postures on some islands.

MEI: What steps can be taken to resolve this problem?

Rafsanjani: We believe in the 1971 Treaty between Iran and the UAE. It's a good document for the two countries to sit down and resolve their differences.

MEI: How would you characterize your relationship with Saudi Arabia?

Rafsanjani: It's not very good. An average relationship—even less than average—but we would like to see an improvement.

MEI: Why is that, and what more can be done to improve the relationship?

Rafsanjani: I think there too, there are foreign instigations. The U.S. does not want Iran and Saudi Arabia to get together, to work and cooperate with each other. They cannot do anything through us, and they use the Saudis to create problems. The United States knows that if Iran and Saudi Arabia maintained good, friendly relations, then we could resolve many matters relating to oil, OPEC, and regional security problems and there would be no need for the U.S. to have its military bases in the Persian Gulf. And perhaps they want to impose the peace plan on the Arab countries and present Iran as an enemy to be scared of—as a threat against them—so that they could receive extortion from them.

MEI: Another neighboring country is Russia. Could you please assess Iran's relations with Russia today, including areas of cooperation and areas of conflict?

Rafsanjani: At present, our relations with Russia are good. Our relations during the Gorbachev time when I visited Russia improved a lot—a trend that still continues. Russia is a large country in our region with vast potentials and specific circumstances. Promotion of Iran-Russia relations serves the interests of both nations. Fortunately, the authorities of both countries realize the importance of this issue and that is why friendly relations between the two countries is not affected by adverse international political tides. In addition to mutual cooperation aimed at finding political solutions to regional conflicts, Iran and Russia cooperate in the field of trade, culture, science, industry and try to coordinate their policies about oil and gas.

MEI: Iran seems to have a number of competing and even conflicting political factions. Could you give an explanation of the complexities of Iranian politics for those outside the country who do not understand it?

Rafsanjani: Like any other country where there are free elections, in Iran, too, political group rivalry is serious business. These differences are nothing new in Iran. I am aware that certain Western quarters attempt to present the differences in Iran as a point of instability in or perhaps even threat against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, these differences are, in and of themselves, a clear indication of political stability and maturity of our system. That our Majles (Parliament) meticulously considers the policies and practices of the executive branch of the government and pronounces its acceptance or opposition to them is quite necessary and, in final analysis, is helping the government in the long run. The differences of views in Iran find their synthesis within the framework of our Constitution; and after public debate on the point of difference in the media, the predominant view usually emerges. We do not intend to prevent exchange of views or to deny that conflicting view exist in Iran. I believe, as long as these differences are within the framework of the Constitution, they will be a vehicle for growth and progress in the country and ensure the interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course, as the president, I would like the Majles (Parliament) to be more in line with and supportive of the policies and decisions of my government, but as an individual who has served and shouldered a great deal of burden for the Islamic Revolution and that all its organs fulfill their constitutionally delineated tasks well. In other words, separation of powers and the system of checks and balances for review of policy formulation and policy implementation which have been designed in our system function well and render it as an Islamic, popular, democratic and efficacious system.

MEI: Women have repeatedly made some important strides in the Islamic Republic. Please explain the Islamic Republic's view of the role of women in a Muslim society?

Rafsanjani: During the former regime, our women who were religious did not participate in social activities very much because of the corruption in and opposition to the regime. There was a distance between women and social affairs of the country. After the revolution, we invited

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the people to encourage their daughters to play a more active role in the society. And we encourage them very much to send their children for higher education, higher institutes of learning and research centers. Now, about 35 percent of our university students are women. And over 10 percent of school teachers are women. We do not have many women at the level of high management. But, their number is increasing in the parliament and top management. We think the status of women has been enhanced and their future is even better in this country.

MEI: Mr. President, what is your vision of Iran's future? Where do you see Iran heading politically and economically? In what ways do you expect the Islamic Republic to respond and adapt in the future?

Rafsanjani: From an economic point of view, I see Iran to be very strong in the future, because of the rich resources. We have the second largest natural gas reserves in the world. From the human resources perspective, we are also in a good position. We are training very good human resource pool with a bright future. And priority in investment goes to infrastructure projects. From the political point of view, and internationally, we try to defuse the negative propaganda being waged against Iran. Since our policy is based on having friendly and cooperative relations with all the countries of the world, it is only natural to have good international relations.

Pakistan

Daily Appreciates Gore's Remarks on Military Rule

BK1507095695 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 14 Jul 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The United States and Military Rule"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at a reception hosted by a "Pakistani-American," U.S. Vice President Al Gore said that "military rule in Pakistan will not be accepted." The U.S. vice president's statement deserves our heartfelt appreciation. However, what can be said about the United States, which has no interest in democracy beyond its own frontiers despite all its claims? While the United States enforces strict discipline among the members of its own armed forces — making politics off-limits for military personnel or an officer on active service and preventing a military general from raising his voice on any political issue — it establishes direct contacts with army generals in other countries to exercise its influence there. It accords VIP treatment [preceding two words in English] to distinguished guests in uniform and treats them as private government guests after the end of their official visits. Washington does so because it believes that it is easier to enter into any bargain with a martial law dictator or a nonelected despot than to control the diverse democratic government cliques in the Third World.

It is a popular belief that the United States was behind all the martial law regimes established in Pakistan thus far. Even though during General Zia's regime, the United States extended support and assistance to Pakistan because of the Afghan problem, Gen. Zia used the U.S. support to prolong his own rule. It would be better for the United States to wish for others what it wishes for itself, but this would be contrary to the U.S. behavior. Incidentally, the "Pakistani-American" at whose reception the U.S. vice president made the above remarks is a supporter of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. It would therefore not be out of context to mention that in the wake of the U.S. Government's strong reaction to the institution of a high treason case against Mian Nawaz Sharif, the leader of the opposition, the PPP lobby in the United States would have tried to solicit a statement from any high-ranking U.S. official that could have benefited the PPP. Be that as it may, no sensible person can ever support martial law. It is the duty of our politicians not to create conditions that may create a sense of approval for martial law in the minds of the people. It is the duty of the politicians to strengthen the democratic parliamentary system. It the system continues to progress and advance further, there will be no martial law in the country even if the United States tries to have it imposed here. However, the "million-dollar" [preceding two words in English] question is: Who conveyed this spurious news [about the possibility of military rule in Pakistan] to the U.S. vice president?

UN Envoy Urges Notice of 'Grave' Bosnian Situation

BK1507090995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has urged the UN Security Council to take urgent notice of the grave situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The call was made by the Pakistan's ambassador at the UN offices in Geneva, Mr. Munir Akram, while commenting on the offer by Pakistan to send more troops for peace-keeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Munir Akram said we would continue to support the principled position taken by the United Nations and oppose aggression where ever it is. The Pakistan's ambassador said Pakistani forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina are working under the orders and instructions of the UN command. The Security Council should taken decisions at military and political levels to deal with the situation created by the aggression launched by Serb forces against their safe areas. He said

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the Security Council should also decide priorities in this respect.

Official Talks Continue Between Government, MQM

Daily Outlines MQM Agenda

BK1207031295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (APP) — The five-member negotiation team of [Muhajir Qaumi Movement or MQM] Altaf Group, led by Ajmal Dehlvi, which is to initiate dialogue with the Government on Monday [17 July] to sort out Karachi problem, will be carrying an 18-point [number as published] charter of demands.

The demands are as under:

1. Operation Clean-Up, directed against Muhajirs, be discontinued forthwith. All military and paramilitary forces be withdrawn from civilian areas.

2. Muhajir representation in the National and Provincial Assemblies and the Senate is well below their actual population: To ensure proportionate representation of Muhajirs, the overdue census be conducted under an impartial authority. The electoral boundaries in Sindh Province be also revised.

3. Muhajirs constitute about 50 percent of Sindh's population but their share in the Federal and Provincial services is negligible. The urban quota in Federal and Provincial services needs to be enhanced from 7.6 percent to 9.5 percent as from 40 percent to 50 percent respectively on the strength of their population. The factual position is that the representation of Muhajirs in Federal and Provincial services is only 1 percent to 15 percent respectively.

To meet this deficiency of 8.5 percent at Federal-level and 35 percent at provincial-level, special recruitment for induction of Muhajirs be made on emergency basis and due share of Muhajirs in the services be maintained.

4. The spirit of democracy demands that all sections of population are represented in the government. Therefore, the position of the Governor and Chief Minister of Sindh be shared in rotation by Muhajirs and Sindhis.

5. The Urban areas of Sindh should receive proportionate share of the Federal and provincial funds for development.

6. All arbitrary administrative actions taken to suppress and subjugate Muhajirs during the last two years be reversed. This particularly refers to bifurcation of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, creation of Malir District and of Layri Development Authority.

7. The repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh to Pakistan be carried out without further delay.

8. Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and other Municipal bodies be made autonomous to govern their affairs freely. Similarly, till elections of Local Bodies are held the arbitrarily-superseded elected Local Bodies be restored forthwith.

9. All employees arbitrarily sacked or removed from Federal, Provincial and Semi-Government services since June 1992 and those sacked from Pakistan Steel Mills be reinstated.

10. During the last two years thousands of MQM workers,leaders and elected representatives were killed, kidnapped, arrested, tortured and maimed. Their properties were looted or burnt under State patronage. Suitable compensation be given to all those who suffered.

11. Billions of rupees [Rs] extorted by the personnel of the law enforcement agencies particularly FIT (Field Investigation Team — an intelligence wing of the Army) and police as bribes from innocent Muhajirs be recovered and returned to the victims. During raids household valuables and jewellery were looted by the personnel of the law enforcement agencies. The culprits involved be taken to task through inquiry by an independent commission and losses be indemnified.

12. Large number of Muhajirs were murdered in the custody of Army, other law enforcement agencies and by their sponsored terrorist group Haqiqi. The latest example of Muhajir genocide is the cold-blooded murder of five young men in Sukkur by the law enforcement agencies. A commission of Supreme Court and High Court Judges be constituted to investigate these heinous crimes with the power to punish the culprits.

13. All cases instituted or reopened against MQM leaders, members of Senate and assemblies, workers and sysmpathisers are false, fabricated and politically motivated. These cases be withdrawn unconditionally.

14. Representation of Muhajirs in Sindh Police is negligible. Therefore, recruitment of Muhajirs in Sindh Police be made on emergency basis to make it proportionate according to their population ratio.

15. Educational institutions of Interior Sindh have been made inaccessible for Muhajir students due to violence and armed attacks in those campuses. At the same time Muhajir students are being denied admissions in professional educational institutions in the urban area mainly because of fake domicile and permanent

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residence certificates. These malpractices need to be stopped.

16. Massacre of Muhajirs has continued from time to time in Sindh. Thousands of Muhajir men, women and children have been killed and injured while women treated degradingly. Large number of houses have been looted and set ablaze. A high-level commission of Supreme Court and High Court Judges be constituted to identify those responsible for massacre so that culprits may be punished.

17. MQM leaders, elected members and workers who are in various jails of Sindh, are in fact political prisoners and should be given "B" class as envisaged by Jal Manual.

Constitutional and democratic rights of Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) of freely participating in the political activities are being usurped, due to highhandedness and machination of the government and the law enforcement agencies.

Central office of MQM known as "Nine Zero" has been raided over 50 times during the on-going Operation Clean-Up, properties and equipments worth over Rs 30 million have been looted and destroyed, all telephone/ax/mobile phones of central offices of MQM have been disconnected without justification. Over 500 telephones of MQM leaders, elected leaders and workers are also disconnected by the Government. Political victimisation be stopped against MQM, undeclared ban be lifted, MQM be allowed to participate fully and freely in political activities, its telephone lines be restored and full compensations be paid for loss of properties and equipments.

MQM Criticizes Government Agenda

BK1507101095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] has sharply reacted to the government's 21-point agenda saying it is an effort to sabotage the talks.

This view was taken by the MQM negotiating team on Friday [14 July]. Ajmal Dehlvi, while talking to THE NATION, said the process of dialogue had received a serious setback as a result of what he called strange behaviour of the government's committee.

The crux of his views was that the content of the official conditions and the manner in which these were made public cast doubts on the government's sincerity and its attitude.

However, commenting on their nature, Dehlvi said it seemed the government had formally charged the MQM with terrorism. His impression was that the government's agenda was meant to destroy the negotiation process.

The MQM leader even hinted at a discontinuation of talks because of the handling of the issue by ND Khan's committee. "We are very disturbed and our expectations of a meaningful exchange of views have been badly shaken by this particular action of the government." He expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the official committee. To a question, he said if Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto herself was there to listen to their views, it would make the negotiations a lot more effective.

Ajmal Dehlvi again contested the official version that the MQM had been handed over the 21-point document. He said had this been true, there would have been a mention of it in the joint statement issued after Thursday's meeting.

When a government source was asked to comment, he said the MQM had received their demands. He insisted that there was discussion on the document, leading to a sentence regarding the issue of terrorism.

"If the MQM leaders deny this, they are lying," was the response of the person concerned with the negotiations. Law Minister ND Khan claimed on Friday that he had given it to the MQM team himself. He, however, refrained from making any comment that could further offend the MQM leaders.

But the MQM leaders stuck to their stand that the government's agenda had not figured in the meeting. "We have only come to know about it through the Press," was how they maintained their position.

"First of all, the way the document was circulated to the Press was nothing short of a joke. It did not say who had prepared it or when it was issued. Why did it not carry any signature if it was official?"

Further, he said, "the document is addressed to Altaf Group whereas we consider ourselves as MQM members. So in any case, it does not concern us." Going through the demands published by the Press, he said they had not touched even a single core issue.

"They do not cover any political problem or their solution, jobs or MQM's representation in the assemblies. Most importantly, they do not meet any of our 18-point demands. In this situation, what is the use of negotiating?"

Asked about the future line of action, he said Altaf Hussain had given a 24-hour deadline to seek the

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opinion of party leaders, supporters, politicians and the general public, both from inside the country and outside.

"The deadline is to expire sometime around midnight. He has asked them to advise him that in view of the government's attitude, what should be his reaction. Altaf Hussain has done what he could do to make the talks successful. He had postponed the two-day protest in Karachi and given the MQM committee full mandate to hold dialogue with the government on our 18 demands.

"So there is no option which he has not exhausted. But if the government is not willing to talk reasonably and is instead going ahead with its victimisation policy in Karachi, the MQM has to review its strategy."

Dehlvi's team left for Karachi at 7:00 pm to attend a meeting of the MQM Rabita Committee. Following they would convey their assessment of the situation to Altaf Hussain. After that, Dehlvi said Altaf Bhai was expected to announce his decision late Friday night whether to hold the next round of talks or discontinue the process.

Dehlvi said although they had intended to meet the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief of the Army Staff, but due to official engagements, it could not happen. "But we would certainly try again and meet them soon." He said their meetings with the Speaker National Assembly and the Senate Chairman had been useful and both had extended their services for the success of dialogue.

Nawa-i-Waqt staffer adds: The MQM negotiating team has rejected the 21 demands presented by the Government and termed these as 'vulgar and unethical chargesheet against MQM'.

The team members have also expressed apprehensions that these 21 points not only affect the negotiations but also bring them to an abrupt end. The government demands, they said, can create such a situation as can close the "doors of parleys" forever.

The leader of the MQM negotiating team, Ajmal Dehlvi has said that the purpose of presenting the 21 demands is to sabotage and fail the negotiations and added that in the next 16 hours it will be decided what kind of relations the Government and the MQM have in the context of the negotiations. He accused that the 'chargesheet' indicates that the government wants to separate the MQM from the negotiations "and drive us to the point of no return."

He said this in an exclusive interview to THE NATION here on Friday.

Ajmal Dehlvi said during the course of negotiations government presented no demands and neither these demands were mentioned in the joint communique. When the first communique was issues, he said, it was written that MQM had presented 18 point charter of demands, whereas the government's 21 points were released to the Press "which is surprising and a source of concern for us."

Answering a question, Ajmal Dehlvi said, he came to know about the 21 points when he talked to newsmen after the first round of negotiations. "They showed us these points clarifying that there were issued by the Government," he added. He said he was reluctant to accept that the document containing the 21 points was issued by the Government because a Government when it initiates negotiations with the other party and the talks are progressing, does not issue such a ridiculous chargesheet against the other party. He added the said document does not mention that it has been issued by the Government. "We seriously doubt that it has been released by PPP [Pakistan People's Party] as it is not signed by any authority," he clarified. Adding he said if the document in question is issued by the government then it has not been composed by a sane person because sane people do not write such things and issue them to the Press.

Ajmal Dehlvi said the purpose behind the 21 points cannot be other than to fail the negotiations and sabotage the efforts for restoring peace.

When asked whether the 21 points can affect the ongoing negotiations, he said that these can badly affect the negotiations and can end them forever.

The leader of the MQM negotiating team said the MQM Chief has asked for the opinion of the masses and he will be conveyed the same Saturday night after the meeting of coordination committee in Karachi. The MQM Chief will then decide whether to continue the negotiations or end them, he added.

Ajmal Dehlvi said in order to make the dialogue a success Altaf Hussain ended the weekly 2-day strike call but despite that 12 people were killed in Karachi.

When asked whether the MQM and Government are sliding toward the "point of no-return," he said MQM is striving for the success of dialogues and wishes that all the issues are settled amicably, but the government's 21 points cannot solve any political and economic problem. "This is a list of accusations levelled by the government. It does not contain any solution to any problem. It seems Government wants to separate MQM from the negotiations and drive us to the point of no return," he reiterated.

Ajmal Dehlvi said if negotiations fail the situation in Sindh and particularly in Karachi can further deteriorate which will affect the national politics. He said that Altaf

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Hussain has, time and time again, said if the government pushes Muahjirs to the wall, they will go out of control. To the query that can the failure of dialogues lead to civil war in Sindh urban area, Ajmal Dehlvi said, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto herself said that there is mini-revolt in Sindh urban areas.

This situation is of grave concern to the entire country, he concluded.

Minister Views 'Prime Objective'

BK1507100095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] N.D. Khan, federal minister for law and parliamentary affairs, has said the prime objective of the government's unconditional talks with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM]-Altaf group is the restoration of peace and normalcy in Karachi.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday, he said the basic demand of the people of Karachi is restoration of peace, and the government aims to achieve this objective. Khan said the government is pursuing this goal sincerely since it believes that it has the responsibility to protect life and property. He said the government negotiating team was empowered to discuss various points with the Altaf group, but it would remain within the constitutional limits. He expressed the hope that the third round of negotiations Sunday [16 July] will be a step in the right direction. He said the negotiations have already achieved some gradual improvement in the Karachi situation.

Referring to the development program, Khan said the 121 billion- rupee Karachi package will extend basic amenities to the people. Khan said emphatically that only after peace is restored in Karachi will people prosper economically, and foreign investment will create more jobs.

Ajmal Dehlvi, leader of the Altaf group's negotiating team, has said the political issues need to be resolved through dialogue. Addressing a news conference in Karachi yesterday, he said they will make every effort to see that the doors for talks remain open. He pointed out that they did not make any demands beyond the boundaries of the Constitution. Dehlvi said that since the issuance of 21 demands by the government side, his group will decide within 24 hours whether to continue the talks with the government.

MQM Decides To Continue Negotiations

BK1607094095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between the representatives of the government and Altaf Group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement] resume in Karachi this morning. The government side will be led by Law Minister Professor N.D. Khan, while the Altaf group will be headed by Ajmal Dehlvi.

In earlier two rounds in Islamabad, the two groups had exchanged their points of view on how to normalize the situation in Karachi. Member of National Assembly Zuhair Akram Nadim, a member of the government negotiating team, said in a statement in Karachi that the government's 21-point agenda submitted earlier is not a charge-sheet and it can be discussed. He said the points submitted by the Altaf Group have now risen to 33. He pointed out that neither side should be sentimental about any point and should discuss all points with total seriousness.

Meanwhile, addressing a news conference in Karachi yesterday evening, Ajmal Dehlvi, the leader of the Altaf Group negotiating team, said the group has decided in principle to continue negotiations with the government under all circumstances. He said his party has stood for peaceful resolution of all issues and does not want to see Karachi politically and economically instable. He said his team will join the Karachi round of negotiations with an open heart and mind for a positive outcome of the talks.

MQM Appeals for 'Saner' Attitude

BK1607100495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Jul 95 pp 1,4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi- The Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) has decided to continue dialogue with the government.

This was announced by the leader of the MQM negotiating team, Ajmal Dehlvi during a Press conference at the MQM's headquarters in Azizabad here on Saturday [15 July] evening. Other members of MQM's negotiating team, Shoaib Bukhari advocate, Qazi Khahid advocate, Tariq Javed and Sheikh Liaquat Hussain were also present on the occasion.

The MQM leader accused the government of making nefarious attempts to aggravate already volatile situation and added that the government is doing everything to destroy the talks. However, Ajmal Dehlvi said that they have been directed by the MQM Chief Altaf Hussain to proceed with the talks despite the government's negative behaviour.

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He said as far as 21-point government agenda is concerned it was never given to MQM and reiterated that the same was aired through the State-controlled electronic media.

Taking about the government agenda, the MQM leader said that the government is free to approach any court if it has any complaint against the MQM. What has prevented the government from moving the court of law during all these years, he asked. He said 21-point agenda is nothing but a sordid and well-formulated conspiracy to derail the talks.

Replying to a question, he however, said that he will discuss the issue with the government negotiating team when they meet at Governor's House on Sunday morning. He also said that the government is continuing its policy to crush the MQM and Mohajirs.

He said not withstanding the gesture shown by the MQM when it decided to withdraw the strike call, the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government conducted raids and intimidated the arrested MQM workers. He said MQM has decided it will attend the talks on Sunday and will try to find out as what was government up to.

He appealed to the government to adopt a saner and reasonable attitude, and warned that anything contrary might be counter productive.

He avoided direct answer when asked about his statement published on Sunday morning in which Ajmal is reported to have supported the imposition of Martial Law. He merely said that when a man is hungry then he would be thankful to anyone who feeds him.

Ajmal Dehlvi informed that so far the government negotiating team has already discussed over nine points out of MQM's 18-point charter of demands but none of them could be accepted. He said that the MQM team was was unauthoritative as the leader of the government negotiating team discussed every point with the Prime Minister.

We think the government is only sincere in dialogue not in solving the problems, he said. The MQM, he added, was in its talks with the government on October 19 last but it was the government which closed the doors of negotiations. "This time also we are sincere to resolve the issues on negotiation table but again the government was adopting undemocratic methods to provocate MQM so that we may discontinue the talks. But we will not do so. We will go for talks with open hearts. We will do our utmost to reach some understanding. And we hope the government would also realise the gravity of the situation and accept MQM's legitimate demands in the larger interest of the country."

He said that MQM never asked for a Ministry, adviser seat or plot permit but always stressed that 22 million Mohajirs be given their due rights. But, he regretted, the PPP government was using all the State machinery for the genocide of Mohajirs.

Earlier, he presented before the newsmen 21 points which were based on government's inhuman and undemocratic actions against the Mohajirs after the announcement and beginning of talks between the government and MQM.

Commenting on 21-point agenda of the government for discussion with MQM, Dehlvi said none of the points taken up in the agenda could be taken as a political matter to be settled with the MQM. He alleged the government agenda was actually a charge-sheet against the Karachi leadership and the question arises why the government his not so far voiced these points against MQM in a concerned court of law. He termed the government agenda smacked of false charges and claimed the wrong propaganda of the government would not work out as regards a much needed peace process in Karachi. Speaking for the restoration of civic rights of Mohajirs, Dehlvi said we only speak about the rights of 22 million Mohajirs in Karachi and the government is required to restore the basic and constitutional rights of Karachiites. He said MQM is a representative political party of the entire Mohajir community in Karachi which is why the government is too required not to downplay the political worth of MQM. He warned against the non-acceptance of the MQM demands and said if the government remains adamant towards the people of Karachi, the situation would lead to an aggravated sense of deprivation in the urban areas of Sindh. He also warned that the people of Karachi finding no other way for the restoration of their basic and constitutional rights could demand any other but permanent solution to their problem.

MQM Lists Accusations Against Government

BK1607100895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Jul 95 pp 1,4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (PR) — Leader of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] negotiating team Ajmal Dehlvi, during a Press conference here on Saturday [15 July], framed 21 accusations against the government and claimed that despite their grievances, they have been continuously following a policy of patience and non-violence.

The accusations are as follows:

1. On July 6, ex-councillor Aslam Sabzwan was tortured by Police, Intelligence Bureau and other agencies so severely that he died. The MQM announced to observe

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two-day mourning but later curtailed it to one-day, so that conducive atmosphere for holding the dialogue should be created.

2. On July 7, the government registered a case at the Baldia Town Police Station, nominating MQM Chief Altaf Hussain, Senator Ishtiaq Azhar, members of negotiating team Ajmal Dehlvi and Shoaib Bokhari, for snatching a yellow cab and torching it.

3. On July 9, the raids and arrests continued in Hyderabad. Police not only arrested MQM activists but also nabbed a few innocent passers-by.

4. On July 9, during the protest strike Police and Rangers opened indiscriminate fire in Gulberg and on Saghir Centre (Federal B Area). As a result, the window panes of many apartments were shattered and walls were damaged.

5. On July 9 in Orangi and Korangi, PPP and Haqiqi terrorists under the supervision of Police and Rangers personnel looted the houses of poor Muhajirs and killed 25 persons.

6. On July 9, in Mirpur Khas the personnel of government agencies conducted many raids, arrested dozens of MQM workers and shifted them to unknown places.

7. On July 10, the PPP activists opened indiscriminate fire in Khawaja Ajmer Nagri. As a result many people sustained serious injuries and many others shifted to safe areas.

8. On July 10, Police and Rangers killed MQM workers Abdul Rehman in a fake encounter.

9. On July 10, it was learnt that workers and office-bearers of Mulahida Qaumi Movement have been arrested in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province], Punjab and Balochistan. They were tortured by various agencies and forced to abandon Altaf Hussain.

10. On July 10, raids were conducted in Orangi, Liaquatabad and North Nazimabad to arrest MQM workers, office-bearers and their relatives, during which MQM activist Ikram Ahmad Farooqi was arrested.

11. On July 11, when the first round of Government-MQM talks was being held in Islamabad, victimisation of MQM workers culminated and Police and Rangers arrested scores of workers, raiding Orangi Town, Bulbahar, Federal B Area, Kharadar, Aifalah, Korangi and North Karachi.

12. On July 10, Police and Rangers riding Armoured Personnel Carriers killed Saeed Ahmad Siddiqi, an MQM worker in Hyderabad Ward No. 20.

13. On July 12, the personnel of government agencies, raided the houses of MQM workers in New Karachi, Orangi Town, Korangi, Lyard, Malir, Clifton, Pir Colony, Mehmoodabad, Federal B Area and made indiscriminate arrests.

14. On July 12, MQM Chief Altaf Hussain, as a conciliatory gesture, called off two day weekly protest.

15. On July 13, Police and Rangers raids continued and dozens of MQM workers were arrested illegally.

16. On July 13, Police Rangers and Haqiqi terrorists killed there MQM workers and two office-bearers.

17. On July 13, Police and Rangers cordoned off some areas in New Karachi, launched a "grand operation" and arrested the youths of more than 15 years of age.

18. On July 13, an MQM activist Ikram Ahmad Farroqi, who was arrested on July 10 and was tortured by police for 3 days, was killed.

19. On July 14, Junaid Mansion on Burns Road was raided and members of Ali Pakistan Muhajirs Students Organisation Ad Hoc Committee Arshad Riaz, Dr Mehmood Siddiqi, Aminul Hasan, Salman Khaliq and their neighbours were arrested.

20. On July 14, from four different localities of North Karachi and New Karachi about 200 innocent Muhajirs were tortured and arrested.

21. On July 14, Police and Rangers raided General Post Office [GPO] and arrested 18 MQM workers including joint incharge GPO Farooq and Incharge Landhi, 83 Manzoor. [sentence as published]

Concluding Ajmal Dehlvi appealed to Human Rights Organisations, patriotic Pakistanis, intellectuals and writters to view the situation and decide as to who is responsible for the deteriorating situation.

Negotiators Said Positive About Talks

BK1607163395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Further talks between the teams of the government and Altaf group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement] were held in the Governor House in Karachi this morning. The government negotiating team was led by the federal law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, while the Altaf Group team was headed by Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi. The talks which began at 1030 lasted about two and half hours.

Later, giving his impression about today's parleys, the leader of the government team, Prof. N.D. Khan, said that it was the common concern of both the teams that peace may be restored in Karachi and this should be durable and not of a temporary nature. He said today's

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talks were hopeful and very good and the agenda which was discussed today would be discussed in continuity when they meet at 1030 tomorrow.

The leader of Altaf group team, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, described today's talks as quite encouraging. He said there are some differences also and we hope these differences will be settled. Both the teams have a common objective that peace and tranquillity be restored in the city, bloodshed be stopped, and violence and highhandedness be controlled. He said we spent our time in this direction today and certain matters will be settled and some decisions made when we meet tomorrow, which will result in improving the law and order situation. The Sindh governor, Mr. Kamal Azfar, hosted a luncheon in honor of both the negotiating teams after the talks.

Sri Lanka

Operation 'Leap Forward' Continues Against LTTE

Radio Reports on Clashes, Casualties

BK1507115695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces resumed the Operation Leap Forward in the Jaffna Peninsula today. Clearing operations and consolidation are in progress. According to the Operational Headquarters of the Defense Ministry, the terrorist transmissions monitored had confirmed that 62 of their cadres had been killed during yesterday's attack which took place in the early hours in Sandilippai and Alaveddi. In this encounter, the troops lost two officers and 17 soldiers. The remains of these officers and soldiers have already been brought to Colombo and Anuradhapura. Six officers and 89 soldiers who were wounded have been evacuated to the Palali Military Hospital.

'Sources' Cite Determination of Forces

BK1507115995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces are ready to achieve their targets in the Leap Forward operations, containing attacks from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. Military sources say that the forces are determined to achieve the objectives and do not consider attacks on two liberated areas yesterday as obstacle. During such a battle, attacks should be expected. However, the troops have been successful in consolidating their power in the liberated areas and an operation has also begun to detect any terrorists hidden in these areas. Despite the downing of an Air Force aircraft, which came in for assistance, many air attacks were directed at terrorist targets.

Rebels Claim To Push Back Advance

BK1707052495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0458 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, July 17 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas Monday [17 July] claimed they pushed back a military advance against their northern Jaffna stronghold with a counter-offensive in which a navy ship and an airforce [word indistinct] were destroyed.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statement sent here from its London office said they drove out the army from areas it had newly captured from the Tigers in the Jaffna peninsula.

The military denied the claim and said it was still consolidating its control in a 78-square-kilometre (31-square-mile) area taken from the guerrillas.

The LTTE statement came after four Tiger frogmen with explosives strapped to their bodies blew themselves up beneath the hull of the navy command and surveillance ship, the Editara, outside the port of Kankesanthurai Sunday, killing three sailors.

The Tigers claimed killing eight sailors while the rebel radio station, the Voice of Tigers announced they lost 17 suicide cadres known as Black Sea Tigers in the pre-dawn offensive against the navy on Sunday.

There had been no air operations by the Sri Lankan air force after the rebels shot down a Puccara ground-attack aircraft over the Jaffna peninsula on Friday, the LTTE claimed.

"The LTTE counter-offensive continues in the Valikamam West area. At least 150 government army men were killed and a greater number wounded," the statement said, referring to the group's offensive, code-named "Leap of Tiger."

Tigers have already admitted losing 63 men in Friday's counter- attack while the army says they lost 33 killed and another 95 wounded in action.

Eight days ago, the army launched its biggest ground offensive, code-named Leap Forward, to advance into LTTE-held territory, and the military's new defence lines have been moved six kilometres (four miles) toward the town of Jaffna.

Defence analysts believe that the LTTE's blasting of the Edithara would be a set back to a possible military push towards Jaffna, the capital of Tamil separatism.

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The Edithara played a key role in providing logistics and ferrying thousands of troops to launch the Leap Forward offensive. It also served as a "mother ship" for patrol craft used for surveillance.

The Tamil Tigers ended six months of peace talks with the Colombo government on April 19 by carrying out an identical suicide strike on the north-eastern Trincomalee port to blast two navy gunboats, killing nearly 20 people.

Radio Reports on Recent Clashes

BK1607133795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior military officials are in Palali are now mapping out the next phase of the offensive against the LTTE — Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. At the same time, ground troops consolidated in the recently captured areas in Jaffna and launched a hunt for rebels, who may be still within the defense lines after their counter-attack on Friday [14 July].

Rebels claim of over 100 soldiers killed in the battle were dismissed by the military, which expects the rebel death figures to be much higher than that mentioned in their transmissions. A senior Air Force official said the LTTE suffered heavily not only in the front lines, but also in the rear; adding that F-7 jet fighter called in following the downing of the Pucara [Argentine-made aircraft] carried out strikes against Tiger reinforcements being transported to the front in several vehicles. He said that the Air Force director of operations, who was in the helicopter over the battle area, had directed the F-7 to a location where the missile was believed to have been fired at the Pucara. It was not known whether the missile launcher was destroyed by the F-7 strike.

Sixty-five soldiers have been reported to have been killed in the operation Leap Forward launched last Sunday with the overall aim of liberating the people of Jaffna from the clutches of the LTTE. Seventy-eight square km of some of the best fertile land in Jaffna has been brought under government control by the offensive.

The operation headquarters of the the Ministry of Defense reported that the Navy destroyed three LTTE boats off Kankensanthurai [KKS] early this morning killing 10 Sea Tigers. The Navy effectively repulsed repeated attacks by the Sea Tigers around 0130 this morning. They tried to enter the KKS harbor. A senior navy official told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that according to LTTE radio intercept, the Tigers had attempted to enter the KKS harbor to disrupt the government's program of supplying essential items to the people of the North. During the confrontation, the naval ship Edithara suffered damage and repair work is now in progress. The operation headquarters also announced that one officer and two sailors were killed and 10 injured during the attack.

A LTTE press release issued yesterday urging the international community to condemn the current military offensive against them was seen by military analysts as a call for help following a severe beating. An analyst said that it appeared as if they had suffered much more at the hands of the security forces than was believed during last week's military offensive. He said the recent casualty figures solely of civilians issued by the rebels indicated that they were trying to get back into the good books of the international community by espousing sympathy for the civilians. Ever since the Elallan Force — a front organization for the rebel — issued an ultimatum by threatening to bomb Colombo last week if the president did not appoint a committee to probe alleged excesses by the military, the Tigers have been engaged in a major propaganda drive telling that a large number of civilian casualties were allegedly caused by the recent offensive, said a military officer.

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